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THURSDAY, APRIL 8TH, 2010

CHARLOTTE'S DESIGN WILL SPEARHEAD SCHOOL CASH CAMPAIGN

by GEM reporter

THE CAMPAIGN to raise £250,000 for the new Cowbridge Comprehensive by September, has unveiled its new logo – designed by a current school pupil

A school-wide competition to design the logo for the Cowbridge Fundraising Committee was won by a year-9 pupil, Charlotte Morris, just before the Easter break.

Charlotte's vibrant design will be used to help publicise fundraising events – as the campaign to raise £250,000 for extra equipment in the new school gathers speed.

Charlotte was "delighted" to win the competition, coming out on top against more than 50 other entrants.

Her colourful logo will be seen on all fundraising committee publications, on *www.cowbridge-comp2010.co.uk* and at functions throughout the campaign.

Charlotte also won an iPod Shuffle as an extra reward for her design skills.

The school's headteacher, Mrs Margaret Evans, praised the efforts of her pupils and the high standard of the entries.

Charlie Puddicombe, the chairman of the fundraising committee said:

'The quality of the designs the children submitted was very high and we had great difficulty choosing the winner.

"We felt that Charlotte's logo had just the right balance – it makes a clear statement of what it represents, has a great choice of colours, and a nice touch of humour.

"We will be proud to use it."

He added: "The committee would like to thank all the children who worked so hard on their designs, and all the staff who helped to organise the competition.'

The fundraising campaign to raise £250,000 for school equipment is gaining momentum.

"More than £40,000 has already been secured and there is more in the pipeline," said Charlie after the logo award ceremony.

With more than £200,000 to raise by September this year, he hopes that anyone with connections to the school will be able to support the fundraising efforts.

He added: "If everyone with links to Cowbridge Comprehensive can come to an event, buy a brick, or just send in a cheque, we firmly believe that we will hit our target and help make a great new school fantastic."

Information about fundraising activities can be found at www.cowbridge-comp2010.co.uk.

ABOVE: Cowbridge headteacher Margaret Evans congratulates Charlotte Morris on her design.

ABOVE: Charlotte's winning logo.

Blaze couple say 'thank you'

A COUPLE whose "entire life" was destroyed by the fire at the Bush Inn have contacted The GEM to thank local people.

Hannah Telfer said: "My partner Andi Davidson and I previously lived in The Bush Inn, St Hilary, until Friday, September 18, when a fire destroyed our entire life. All our belongings were lost, as well as Andi's job – he was the bar manager.

"Since this tragedy, we have gradually moved on with our lives and we are rebuilding our life, slowly but surely.

" The local parish were kind enough to hold a collection at one of their services, and we received the money recently. All I want to say to everyone in the Parish is THANK YOU for your kindness and generosity in our time of need."

Television's Justina organises charity horseback beach canter at Ogmore...

RIGHT: Justina Simpson will be riding her horse, Black Topper, on the charity beach canter at Ogmore-by-Sea.

TV news presenter Justina Simpson will be leading the way on a breast cancer charity 'beach canter' at Ogmore-by-Sea on Sunday (April 11) – but walkers are welcome as well.

The charity event aims to raise money for a new diagnostic, treatment and consultation centre at Llandough Hospital, and it will begin at 12 noon from the Pelican Inn.

Justina, who is a formr pupil of Cowbridge Comprehensive School, told The GEM: "We expect the beach ride to take three hours, and everyone is welcome, not just horse riders."

The event has been organised by Justina and her ITV colleague Mariclare Carey Jones, and they hope to have some other faces, familiar from the TV screen, taking part on the day as well.

Justina said: "It is an event which is in a really good cause, and it will give people a chance to enjoy the coastline."

Riders are asked to make a donation of at least £10, and there may still be time to hire a horse (cost £25).

The event is organised in association with the Ogmore Farm Riding Centre.

Further information on the ride can be obtained by contacting eroadknight@aol.com or telephone 02920 745465,

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DASTARDLY PIETER VAN BLEUW!

April 1st exclusive caused quite a stir!

I WOULD like to congratulate The GEM on its April 1 'spoof' about a proposed smelting plant located near Ogmore by Sea on the Heritage Coast!.

After an initial near-heart attack, followed by a swift realisation that it was only a joke, I can confirm that my phone was red hot with calls from concerned GEM readers.

I was able to reassure them that there was absolutely no truth in the story and referred them to the date – printed above the piece!

Well done, GEM, for injecting a little humour into our daily lives – even though I had some extra work landing in my lap as a result!

Alun Cairns, Regional AM.

Man the barricades!

I READ with abject horror The GEM 'exclusive' on last week's front page, regarding plans for a mammoth coke burning blast furnace and all that goes with it on the Heritage coast.

This is our country and surely it is for us and our elected representatives to decide what is and is not built here on the basis of what is in our best interests – and it is not for Greater Europe to have these things "forced through".

To the barricades boys – and altogether sing *'Tongues of fire on Idris flaring news of foe-men dear declaring....'*

David Alexander, Barry

Good spoof
(or was it real?!)

CONGRATULATIONS on your April 1 spoof concerning the "proposed blast furnace" destined for Ogmore-by-Sea!

It is good to read some humour in the press these days to lighten the depressing economic news we are forced to endure.

We are so used to reading about government initiatives which have not been thought through or costed, that the proposal you described could just be one of these.

Ogmore-by-Sea has no deep water offshore to accommodate laden ore carriers, no rail links, or commercial road access – otherwise it is ideal!

More to the point, the fact that existing steelworks are regularly closing due to lack of demand, would make such a proposal a suitable candidate upon which to waste taxpayers' cash on the inevitable inducement grant which seems mandatory before any large inward investment.

Keep up the humorous good work, we need it.....*or was it for real?*

Roger Fuller, Bonvilston

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Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Will Van Bleuw never learn...?

CONGRATULATIONS! The GEM's ace reporters have achieved yet another exclusive scoop involving Pieter Van Bleuw.

These dedicated newshounds are to be congratulated on their magnificent efforts in discovering the latest deadly plan designed to wreck the tranquility and 'green' credentials of the Vale.

Once again, Van Bleuw has been exposed for the dastardly villain that he is, but he is pitting his wits against The GEM's intrepid investigators who previously uncovered his other equally appalling proposals. *Will he never learn?*

Interesting that these always seem to surface in the spring, usually at the very beginning of April.

Maureen Bennett, Llanblethian

Van Bleuw's plan will boost jobs!

I THINK Mr Pieter Van Bleuw's "Euro backed blast furnace plan" would bring a much-needed boost to jobs and investment to Llantwit Major.

(The GEM front page, last week)

I say demolish those old buildings like the Town Hall, St. Illtyds Church and narrow streets, allowing the creation of a new motorway link from Bridgend via St. Donats to service the new docks at the beach, facilitating easy access for all those big lorries.

Cover Colhugh Meadows with concrete and create a designer outlet – no need to worry about funding a new footpath. Plenty of job opportunities while we are waiting for the St Athan project to be approved.

Close the three small competing supermarkets and replace them with one big Tesco in the town centre. By expansion we could turn the town into a city; who wants all those nice fields and cute little lambs running round? Just makes the place look untidy.

The ideal location of St Donats Castle could become Mr. Bleuw's new adult entertainment production studios and replace Lord Attenborough's Bridgend film studios, which seem to have mysteriously evaporated.

Perhaps all these improvements will encourage Arriva to run a more regular and reliable train service.

Winners all round!

James Wild, Llantwit Major.

Red Kites seen

WITH reference to Red Kite sighting in the Vale, last year on Sunday, May 31, at 4pm (I was so excited I went home and wrote it in my diary), I was walking up Dock View Road, Barry, when I heard a commotion in the sky above me.

When I looked up, I was shocked to see seagulls mobbing three Red Kites. The Kites weren't bothered by this; they just soared a bit higher and carried on towards Sully direction.

R Hocking, Barry

WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

Sewage is the real problem

EVERY week personal encounters with dog and horse mess appear to be met with an almost religious fanatical outburst of support and disgust.

Having been inoculated for most diseases, I regularly walk at Watch Tower Bay, immunised against sewage and toilet waste.

Animal mess is a nuisance, I agree, but at least can be seen when left. However, sewage problems polluting the local shores cannot be easily recognised when dispersed with natural mud.

No doubt, with coming elections and the drive to get votes and tenants to move into the hundreds of new properties on the 'waterfront', some menial will be given a mission to check out this problem

I am sure his expenses will cover wellies, rubber gloves, inoculations which 'Elf 'n' Safety' will demand. Oh, and a bucket and spade, a very large bucket.

Roy A Clark, Barry

NSPCC still needs your help

ON behalf of the NSPCC Cymru/Wales, thank you for your kind and generous donation of £160 towards our work to end cruelty to children.

While the majority of our children are able to enjoy a safe and happy childhood, even today, thousands of children across Wales face a very different reality. The NSPCC exists to put a stop to the continuing incidence of child abuse that has such a terrible impact on the lives of children in our country.

Our work to increase the awareness of problems facing children and increase our ability to identify and take action against perpetrators of abuse, has already helped to prevent child cruelty on a bigger scale than ever before.

Your support in this is vital. We rely on the support of the general public for 87 per cent of our funding. Without your support we would have to close our services within six months.

If you would like to know more about the work of the NSPCC, either visit our website at www.nspcc.org.uk or call 0207 650 6882.

Nerys Sales, Cardiff (Corporate fundraising manager)

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL APRIL 15)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
08 Thur	02.17	7.2	15.09	7.1
09 Fri	03.42	7.6	16.21	7.6
10 Sat	04.41	8.2	17.11	8.1
11 Sun	05.27	8.4	17.52	8.6
12 Mon	06.06	8.8	18.24	8.8
13 Tues	06.42	9.2	18.59	9.3
14 Wed	07.12	9.4	19.29	9.5
15 Thur	07.47	9.5	20.03	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 4.30am (Wed 11am-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.

Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.

Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.

Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.

To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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EASTER WEEKEND SEES THE GREAT GETAWAY – to the Vale!

DESPITE changeable weather last weekend, thousands of people took the opportunity to attend Easter events throughout the Vale.

The chilly weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the large crowds heading for the excitement at Barry Island.

Pat Collins, whose family have provided entertainment on the Island since 1926, said: "We've been absolutely delighted with the turnout, and people came well-prepared, because at times it has been very cold.

"On Monday, I was on the promenade in my cap, coat, scarf and gloves, and people still turned up in their numbers.

"On one of the stalls, we have a red Dragon cuddly for the children and we moved more of them this Easter than in weeks and weeks last year – a lot of them are bought by English people!

"We've had people from as far away as the west country and the midlands."

To the delight of many youngsters, the Pleasure Park, which has operated on Barry Island for more than 90 years, reopened for the spring and summer season on Good Friday.

In Barry's High Street on Saturday, local children attended the popular Easter bonnet parade.

Anthony Hopkins, the chairman of High Street Traders, who organised the event, told The GEM: "Despite the weather, we had a number of high quality entries which made it very difficult for the judges.

"After much deliberating, our eventual winners were for those up to eight years old, Isabel, Kate and Emily; in the over eights, it was Jessica, Chloe and Paige, and the fancy dress winners were Josh, Rayne and Henno.

"Following the bonnet parade up and down High Street, it was into Cubana's Café Bar for The Mad Hatter's Tea Party. All in all it was a fantastic day."

Local broadcasters, Bro Radio 98.1 FM hosted the event live on air and staged party games with Easter eggs for the youngsters.

At Dyffryn Gardens, there was an Easter trail, an American Civil War re-enactment, face painting, story telling, craft workshops and bouncy castles.

Cosmeston Medieval Village in Penarth hosted 'Life in 14th Century Wales'– along with an Easter egg hunt. A hunt was also held on Good Friday at Victoria Park in Barry.

(To see Glyn Evans' Easter bonnet parade photographs, please turn to page 16).

Winter series dressage winners are announced

THE winter dressage at Talygarn Equestrian Centre has proved to be very popular, a spokesman reports.

One event a month has been held since September (except for January).

Class 1 (under-12s) walk and trot was very close, with Ellie McVay from Church Village, on her pony Midi, winning the series by one point.

Ellie Dix from Glamorgan Pony Club, won the over-12s. Ellie has been very consistent throughout on her pony Moss.

Kate Owen from Pontyclun, won Class 2 prelim under-16s by two points, riding Ty Ysgubor Hannah.

Elaine Burt from Pencoed, won Class 2 prelim open, and also class 3 prelim on her lovely grey Silver Codie.

Meryl Hanmer from Llangeinor Pony Club, was the winner of Class 4, the novice test.

The series winners received a sash and a white numnah.

Ellie Dix

Kate Owen

Ellie McVay

Elaine Burt

'New military museum could boost tourism' - SAYS VALE MP

VALE MP, John Smith, claims that a planned military history museum at the £12 billion Defence Technical College (DTC) in St Athan could attract up to 10,000 visitors each year.

John Smith at St Athan.

In a report recently approved by the Vale Council on the St Athan project, it was revealed that a planned 6,800 square metres museum of military history at the site could generate up to 10,000 visitors each year.

John Smith, who championed the St Athan bid, said: "This is great news for the area and I believe it's just the start. It shows the golden opportunities that are up for grabs for our local businesses.

"I want the business community here in the Vale to get the lion's share of the business opportunities created by the St Athan project once it is up and running. That's why I am encouraging local bed and breakfasts and hotels to start thinking about increasing their bed spaces.

"I would also encourage retailers to come up with innovative ways of marketing their products and services, to ensure they get a slice of what visitors will spend locally.

"If we pull out all the stops, there is no reason why we can't attract 100,000 visitors each year in the Vale, as we did during the height of the popularity of the beaches of Barry Island."

'Find a solution to demand for Welsh medium places'

'WORK TOGETHER IN VALE' – CALL

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

DEMAND for places at a Welsh medium school in Barry is outstripping supply.

There are 63 Vale youngsters hoping to go to Ysgol Gymraeg St Curig in the town but just 60 places available.

The Conservative parliamentary candidate for the Vale, Alun Cairns AM, said that while he was pleased that demand for Welsh medium education was increasing locally, it was causing a headache to both schools and education officers.

He explained: "We have an issue at St Curig's where in September there will be 63 children competing for 60 places.

"Strict rules about class numbers mean that it may not be possible to accommodate the three extra children although I am hoping that a sensible solution can be found."

Last month, The GEM reported on how a temporary classroom was likely to be sited at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg in Cowbridge to accommodate all the pupils who want to start there in September.

Mr Cairns, a Welsh speaker himself, said: "The Vale Council is doing its best to cater for this demand for Welsh medium education with news of a new Welsh unit in Llantwit Major, which will ease pressure on Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg.

"I understand that there are also plans for a new Welsh medium school in Barry, so in the long term this issue will be addressed.

"I am calling upon the local authority, the school and parents to work together in a bid to deal with this problem in the short term.

"Although free school transport would be laid on for any pupils who have to attend a school outside Barry,

"I can understand the anxieties of parents on this. Everyone must put their heads together to come up with a solution that satisfies all parties."

The head of strategic planning and performance at the Vale Council, Paula Ham, said:

"The council has worked closely with schools and parents to accommodate all applications for Welsh medium school places for September, 2010.

"We are currently consulting on the establishment of new Welsh medium schools in Barry and Llantwit Major, with the aim of meeting growing demand in the future."

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Dawn liturgy

WITH the moon playing hide and seek behind the clouds, I made my way to the lovely St Mary Hill church for the Easter Sunday and Liturgy.

Many in the congregation were drawn from many areas and included Mrs Susan Thomas, who had lived in Llangan until a few months ago when she and her husband, David, moved to Llangeinor. While living in Llangan, they were both regular worshippers at St Mary Hill church.

At 5.30am, Rev Val Hamer led the congregation outside, but sadly, due to the high wind, we were unable to light our candles. Prayers continued inside the church where we were able to continue the service by candlelight.

Breakfast was served to everyone. A big thank you to Mrs Mary Lloyd, Gareth and Simon, and to all those who worked so hard to prepare the meal and serve it to the congregation.

Christening

IT was almost standing room only at Saron Chapel, Treoes, on Sunday, April 4 for the christening of Aimee Claire James.

There were smiles all through the service; she really is a delightful child and her great grandparents, the late Valerie and Des Thomas would have been so proud of her.

The christening service and communion was performed by Rev Alwyn Evans.

St Canna's

ANYONE wishing to join the St Canna's 100 Club, please contact Gillian Lewis at New Cottage, Llangan, CF35 5DW.

The cost is £10 per share. The draws take place at Easter, Whitsun, Harvest and Christmas. Prizes range from £10-£50.

Courtenay is Miss Vale!

THE first official pictures have been released of the newly crowned Miss Vale of Glamorgan 2010, Courtenay Hamilton, who is from Llantwit Major.

Courtenay, a 20-year-old student, who is currently recording a classical album, wowed the judges at the final where she competed against 14 others at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl.

Gill Barnes, photographer and make-up artist at Makeover Magic, which is providing regional winners with a photo portfolio said: "Courtenay was so easy to work with and shows great potential. As you can see from her picture, she makes a fabulous model and is sure to get a lot of modelling work. I think she will go far in Miss Wales."

In the months leading up to the Miss Wales final in June, Courtenay will be raising money for The Joshua Foundation.

To telephone vote for Courtenay for the Miss Wales contest, please dial 0901 293 799 021.

AM offers support

THE Vale Conservative candidate, Alun Cairns, is supporting villagers at Ogmore-by-Sea in their fight to stop the Sealawns public house from being converted into flats.

Mr Cairns said that he was closely involved in the earlier successful fight, and gave evidence at a planning inquiry in support of the objectors.

He said: "A new planning application wants to turn the Sealawns into 17 flats. We have been fighting this since 2006 and I am disappointed that it has come up again.

"This building is important to the community as a pub and although it has been closed for some time, villagers would like it re-opened. It is the hub of their community and acts as a focal point for village life."

He added: "The community will once again have to pull together to see off this plan and I will be giving whatever support I can to them."

Green drinks

GREE DRINKS are being served at the Bear Hotel, in Cowbridge, on Tuesday, April 13, from 7.30pm.

This is an open and informal monthly get-together to chat and share information about how to live more sustainably. All welcome.

Contact Rob McGhee on 01446 775686, or transitioncowbridge@googlemail.com for details **DK**

Members hear all about Valeways' work

BONT FAEN WI NEWS

MEMBERS of Bont Faen WI welcomed Gareth Simpson to the March meeting and he talked about his work with Valeways, a registered charity working to improve walking in our local countryside.

Volunteers clear footpaths and walking guides are produced. Guided walks are also arranged. Further information can be found on www.valeways.org.uk

The next meeting of the branch will be held on Thursday, April 15 at 8pm in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge and will include a talk by Martin Humphreys of the RSPB on 'Gardening for birds and wildlife'.

Guests and new members welcome.

Milsom House Nursing Home, St Athan

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38 YEARS ON THE BENCH...

Retiring magistrate recalls being thrown in at the deep end!

THE second longest-serving magistrate in the whole of Britain has just retired from the bench at Barry.

Mary Mossford was 70 last week, and the rules state that JPs have to stand down before their 70th birthday.

Mrs Mossford, who lives in Penarth, was only 32 when she was first appointed to the bench – one of the youngest magistrates ever. She has now completed 38 years in the post.

"There is a trend today for younger magistrates, but in those days I was the baby of the court," she recalled.

"There was no training and no interviews – you were simply proposed by someone and the Lord Chancellor said yes or no – and then you just went in at the deep end. I was taking part in decisions on my first day. You learnt the ropes as you went along."

Photograph by JEFF BAKER.

Mrs Mossford said that everything had changed now, with magistrates training for a year and sitting in court as observers before they start presiding.

"When I started, there was a court in Penarth which closed and then I sat in Cowbridge, which has also closed. The only court we have left in the Vale is at Barry."

Mrs Mossford recalled that when she was first appointed, all lady magistrates wore hats in court – a practice which has now died out – but she revived the custom on her last day by sporting a splendid hat to her farewell ceremony, when she was thanked for her years of service by David Taylor, chairman of the bench. Garth James, one of the solicitors, also paid tribute to her work.

"It was an enjoyable occasion and there were no tears, although I will miss everyone," she said. "I felt it was time for me to go.

"Being a magistrate has been a huge commitment and is totally unpaid. It is even more onerous these days because there is constant training, which has to be undertaken to deal with changes in the laws and in sentencing.

"But I sometimes feel that younger magistrates are too tied by sentencing guidelines and I always point out that they are just guidelines and you can go against them, provided you state your reasons in court."

Mrs Mossford comes from a prominent Cardiff family. Her father was Dr Clifford Bence, who was a GP and also Lord Mayor of Cardiff.

He was the first Conservative to represent the Splott ward – which is where his patients lived!

"My family were keen on public service and on giving something back; my father was an alderman for many years."

Mrs Mossford attended Cheltenham Ladies College and met her husband Clive at a tennis tournament. He attended Cheltenham Boys College and was also from Cardiff.

They were born half a mile apart and within three days of each other.

Mrs Mossford worked in the NHS as a physiotherapist and some of her work was with handicapped children in Ely.

She served on the Family Practitioner Committee and also did some conciliation work for the NHS.

Mrs Mossford has also served on a number of magistrates' bodies, including representing Wales on the British Juvenile and Family Courts Committee. She gave that up when she had heart surgery.

Mr Mossford is a chartered accountant who also helped run his family monumental masons business in Cardiff.

Mrs Mossford is a keen golfer and hopes to have more time for the sport.

She is also vice-president of the old girls association of Cheltenham Ladies College and enjoys playing bridge.

She is also a Kentucky Colonel – an honour she shares with many illustrious people. including Sir Winston Churchill.

"I was appointed by the governor because of some work I did to support my husband's firm which was based in Kentucky. We went to a ceremony in the governor's mansion," she recalled.

Lots of Easter fun at Dyffryn Gardens!

YOUNG families descended on Dyffryn Gardens over the Easter weekend, where they enjoyed the splendour of the surroundings, complemented by lots of fun events for the children.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

ABOVE: The American Civil War re-enactment was a highlight of the weekend.

Vale farmers' hamper winner

DAWN Davies of Llantwit Major was the first winner of the Vale of Glamorgan Farmers' Market free food hamper – after her name came up trumps in the draw.

She was presented with a wide range of local produce worth around £50 by chairman Anders Leijerstam of Venison from the Vale last Saturday.

Tickets for the next free draw will be available in Cowbridge Farmers' Market on April 17.

Evan (17) lands his first winner

Seventeen-year-old Evan David from Llanharan, riding the 11-year-old French-bred *Liberty Rock,* notched up his first winner at the Teme Valley Point-to-Point Steeplechases at Brampton Bryan.

Evan, who works for Aberthin National Hunt trainer Tim Vaughan, had *Liberty Rock* in a prominent position throughout the novice riders' race and, riding a well-judged finish, went on to to win by one-and-a quarter lengths from the favourite *Prioritisation* with *Victor Merlyn* a further neck away in third place.

Liberty Rock, a winner in France of a two-mile and four furlong hurdle race, is owned and trained by Bridgend's Samantha Butler.

Farnouge, a seven-year-old chesnut gelding, owned and trained by Bridgend's David Brace, and ridden by Richard Woolacott, outjumped his nine rivals to land the restricted, coming home 25 lengths ahead of *Laverty*.

Like *Liberty Rock*, *Farnouge* is qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt.

Mr Brace's *O'Rage* was made favourite to win the open maiden race but was carried out at the second fence.

BRIAN LEE

Cowbridge Bridge Club round-up

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club (March 29) Club Pairs championship second round results:

1st, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 59.72 per cent; 2nd, Terry Reilly and John Evans 57.41; 3rd, Kevin Maddox and Mike Best 55.56; 4th, Wendy Williams and Tony Disley 55.09; 5th, Debbie and Simon Richards 54.63; 6th, Pat and Brian Swain 52.78.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (March 30):

1st, (N/S) Terri Pollard and David Wright 61.25 per cent; 2nd, (N/S) Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 55.00; 3rd, (N/S) Luba Ashworth and Joan Bird 53.13.

1st, (E/W) Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey 67.50 per cent; 2nd, (E/W) Pauline Lane and Dot Isaac 56.88; 3rd, (E/W) Marian East and Pauline McAllen 53.75.

Please note: Due to renovation at Llanblethian Church Hall, we will meet at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, (every Tuesday from April 6 to April 13 at 7.15pm).

BS

Grateful to the public services

I WOULD like, through your newspaper, to express my gratitude to the public services of Cowbridge.

During the Christmas period – and beyond – I had need of ambulance, fire and nursing services. I cannot praise any of these services enough.

In each case, the assistance I was given was exemplary, the care, courtesy and attention given was heartwarming.

The country may be in a state of disarray, but one's faith is restored in the individual.

Life will improve while this spirit continues, their efforts will reap their own reward.

Mrs C Schrader, Cowbridge

DYFFRYN ENTERTAINS THE YOUNG VISITORS OVER THE EASTER WEEKEND

DYFFRYN GARDENS held a series of Easter events on Sunday and Monday to keep the children entertained.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' pictorial record, an American Civil War re-enactment captured the imagination of many of the children, but there was lot more besides.

There was an Easter trail, storytelling, face-painting, craft workshops and best of all bouncy castles.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

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Bridgend students visit Auschwitz as part of latest Holocaust education programme

PUPILS from schools around south Wales – including a number from the Vale – have been taken on a 'day trip' to a destination that is synonymous with humanity at its most inhuman – Auschwitz.

The visit was organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust, a charity based in the UK, as part of its 'Lessons From Auschwitz' project, which takes pupils out to Poland to visit the death camps that will forever be linked with the Nazis' 'Final Solution to the Jewish problem'.

The project's long-term aim is to take two pupils from every secondary school in the UK out to Auschwitz, and for these pupils to be 'ambassadors' who can pass on their experiences to their peers, and ensure that the Holocaust is never forgotten.

So, for those pupils – all volunteers – the day promised to be harrowing, with the added burden of the heavy responsibility of telling their story back home.

Philip Irwin of The GEM joined the party, which included pupils from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Stanwell, St Cyres, Porthcawl, Bryntirion and Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari.

It was no less harrowing for him.

Photographs by Yakir Zur

ABOVE: The final tribute at the end of a long day – laying lighted candles on the railway track at Birkenau.

Family photographs – the last exhibit at Birkenau.

ABOVE: Local guide Katerina talks to the pupils in front of the infamous Auschwitz gate. (This photograph by GEM staff).

WHEN it comes to studying the events surrounding the Holocaust, I would like to think of myself as quite well informed. I have read books on the subject, and seen a number of documentaries.

Add to that the frequency with which it crops up in dramatic form, in films, novels, theatre and TV, and I felt that I knew enough. Certainly, I felt that I didn't want to look any closer, or do any more research.

However, a visit to Auschwitz in Poland forces you to turn around and take another look.

The pupils were not thrown into the experience unprepared. They had all been to an orientation seminar a week before going. Also, they were all due at another post-event seminar to talk about their experiences.

That is a good idea, because there is something about the physical act of walking around the Auschwitz complex that robs you of the power of coherent speech.

I did receive a number of perceptive and honest contributions from pupils,, but they all came after a few days' reflection.

No one was saying much at the time – either adults or 'children'.

The Holocaust Educational Trust takes the view that the sheer scale of what took place at Auschwitz is more than people can take in. The numbers are so vast that you cease to think of the victims as individuals.

The thrust of the day, therefore, is to 'repersonalise' the Holocaust, and the first step towards this goal is to start the day in Oswiecim. When the Germans invaded, Oswiecim was a town where the Jewish majority lived harmoniously with the Polish Catholics who made up most of the remainder of the town's 14,000 population.

It had a large military barracks, which was ideal for the Nazis' purposes, and that barracks became Auschwitz (the Germanic version of Oswiecim).

Since the war ended, the town has reverted, not surprisingly, to the Polish version.

At Oswiecim, the pupils were shown the site of the former (large) synagogue, which was burned down by the invaders.

They then took a short walk and were welcomed into the (much smaller) present day synagogue by Rabbi Barry Marcus, a veteran of such trips.

Rabbi Barry talked about life in the town before the war, and about after the war. Many Oswiecim Jews were probably among the first to die in Auschwitz. Those who were able to escape and survive the war, chose to seek new lives elsewhere.

Rabbi Barry revealed that one man did return – a man so traumatised that he spoke to no one, and lived the rest of his life as a mute witness to the past.

However, I believe the main reason for the visit to the synagogue were the photographs on the walls. Nothing remarkable – that was the point.

The photographs were all pre-war, and were simple scenes of everyday life.

There were class photos from school, family groups or social occasions – exactly what you would expect from a small town community. It was understated, but there would be a powerful echo in Auschwitz Birkenau as night fell, seven hours later.

The military barracks that are now known as Auschwitz One are part of the town, in the same way that the local secondary school is part of a town like Barry or Llantwit Major. It covers about the same area too, but with more barrack buildings and little in the way of playing fields.

It only took a few minutes before we were being ushered past the gates that said 'Arbeit Macht Frei'. It was almost six hours since we had checked in at Cardiff Airport and it was starting to snow.

The staff at Auschwitz are now used to taking parties of school pupils around, and we were all equipped with headphones so that we could hear every word spoken by Katerina, our guide.

It is at Auschwitz One that you find all the exhibits. One block has been left to show what the living conditions were like - although 'living' conditions is quite the wrong term.

Other blocks are given over to the collections that most people know about – a room where the 'exhibit' is hundreds of suitcases, all neatly labeled by families who believed they were being relocated to start a new life, or another room with shoes.

As you enter these blocks, a sign over the door says 'Evidence of Crimes' – a grim reminder that still, to this day, certain groups tie logic in knots to try and explain away what went on here.

As with so many things about Auschwitz, it is the scale that gets to you. The room with the shoes, for instance, is actually a narrow corridor, perhaps 25 yards long. You take a step in and you can see, behind the glass to your left and to your right, thousands of shoes piled 12 feet high.

I took that first step and really did not want to go any further. Part of me was saying "I've seen enough" while part of me insisted on seeing it all, so I walked the 25 yards looking to one side, and then walked back looking the other.

As we left the building, one teacher who was accompanying her pupils said to me: "I was alright in there until I saw a matching pair."

The scale of Auschwitz is such that the small things tend to have a big impact. For me, it was in the 'hair room' where this time the exhibit is human hair, again piled about 12 feet high behind a glass window, and once again stretching maybe 20 yards.

The hair was, of course, cut from the living, who had their heads shaved before being assigned to labouring duties, and from the dead – once the gas chambers had done their job.

However, once again it was the small details that hit home. In a cabinet in a corner of the room were a number of documents – business contracts – and there was the price agreed for this hair with (presumably) a wig-maker back in the Fatherland.

It was 50 pfennigs a kilo.

The pupils spent probably about two hours walking around Auschwitz One. I think that there was much more to see, but it was time to take the short bus ride to Birkenau. It was snowing quite heavily now, and our party would be spending the next four hours almost entirely out of doors.

The pupils were familiar with Birkenau (also known as Auschwitz Two). They recognised the watchtower, and they knew where the trains would pull up, with families leaving the trains to be assessed and assigned – sent either to work parties or to the gas chambers.

This time, we are not talking about a school on the outskirts of a town.

We are talking about a large industrial estate.

Only a few of the huts that made up the living quarters are still standing, but the foundations are visible as they stretch away to the right and to the left. The pupils don't need more than 10 minutes inside one to realise how dreadful the conditions must have been.

Then, with the snow still falling, we set off along the rail tracks, heading towards the gas chambers. It was a long walk and is not 'tourist friendly'.

We stumbled and slipped across the uneven ground – but nobody complains.

Auschwitz was liberated by the Red Army and, as the Russians approached, the Nazis tried to destroy the gas chambers.

As a result, the two ruined buildings have been left as they were, with a board erected to explain where the different rooms in the building were, and detailing what happened where.

In the morning, in Auschwitz One, we had been shown a model of the gas chambers, so it was not difficult to visualise them in working order.

About 400 yards from the gas chambers, there is one building still standing, and it is this building that is an echo of the synagogue in the morning.

During the liberation of Auschwitz, a suitcase was discovered, filled with hundreds of family pictures.

After the war, Jewish organisations tried to identify the families, and to find out what became of them.

Sadly, that was only possible in the case of a small number. As a result, these family groups live on in a room devoted to their memory.

Occasionally, the family group is alongside some biographical details: where they came from; what business they were in; when they were arrested by the Nazis – and whether any of the family survived.

There were precious few who did.

Finally, Rabbi Barry Marcus conducted a short service, and made a passionate speech about the need to remember the Holocaust.

Then, the pupils lit candles and placed them on the end of the railway lines. It was dark now, and still snowing, and the party then made the long walk back towards the infamous watchtower – and their waiting buses.

I must confess that when I first heard about the trip, I felt sorry for the pupils – even though they were volunteers.

It seemed a heavy responsibility, and that too much was being asked of them.

However, I can only point to the following quote from Rebecca and Siobhan from Bryntirion Comprehensive School: *"It is clear to our family and friends how much the trip has changed our perspective on, not only the Holocaust but our outlook on the world itself.*

"It was unbelievable that humans could inflict such pain upon one another. We have learned to appreciate our lives and cherish what we have.

"And most importantly to never hate, as hate was at the very root of this travesty."

This rates package brings welcome relief for Welsh business and public services

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by ***Jane Hutt AM*** **(Minister for Business and Budget)**

THE additional rate relief package for small businesses announced in the Budget will be a boost for businesses in the Vale.

This will mean that around half of small businesses in Wales will pay no business rates for the year from October 1, 2010 and roughly 20 per cent more will see their business rates reduced significantly.

The details of these changes announced by the Chancellor will be important to Vale businesses and my office is always ready to advise and provide further information on these important announcements following the rate relief boosts announced at Christmas by our Local Government Minister, Carl Sargeant.

The latest move involves an increase in the rateable value threshold at which properties will qualify for 100 per cent relief to £6,000 and a taper band of relief from 100 per cent to 50 per cent up to a threshold of £12,000 from the October date for one year.

The UK and Welsh Assembly Governments have worked together to secure this support for businesses as part of the plan to support the upturn of the economy as we move out of recession, but we know how fragile this is as we seek to support business and drive efficiency and innovation in our public services.

Major investment in the Welsh Assembly regional transport plans will also be a welcome boost for public services in Wales involving over £9million for the south east Wales region. This includes over £460,000 for the Vale of Glamorgan – an increase in last year's local transport grant supporting local bus and community transport services.

This will support the vital services provided by VEST (Voluntary Emergency Transport), (DPVC) Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, East Vale Community Transport and Greenlinks – a new project for the rural Vale - as well as supporting a number of important bus routes.

This enables disabled and elderly people to get to important hospital appointments but also to access shops and services.

It was great to see the investment in the new facilities for disabled people and their carers at Cowbridge Leisure Centre last week, joining Seth and Sol Jorgensen at the new changing places facility fully equipped for adults and children, to enable disabled people to access the gym and personal trainers at the centre. This will help boost business at the leisure centre for so many people.

A recent report for the Welsh Assembly Government has shown how free prescriptions in Wales have increased equity and access for patients who were not previously entitled to free prescriptions with asthma, heart disease or an organ transplant, helping them to lead more independent lives and reducing the risk of unnecessary emergency admissions to hospital.

It is also important that we recognise the importance of our investment in services to support the most vulnerable and unprotected members of society including those who experience violence in the home.

A new strategy to protect women and children has been launched by the Welsh Assembly Government. 'The Right to be Safe' includes a number of initiatives and additional funding of £1 million to expand services offered by the Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline, as well as measures to tackle trafficking and to boost educational understanding and awareness, through our personal and social educational framework.

Our access to European funds is also important for business and the public as we plan to use up to £34 million to improve energy efficiency in housing in Wales.

As well as supporting renewable energy generation measures, this will help cut carbon emissions and fuel bills, as well as providing a major boost to support green jobs in Wales.

Vale AM has follow-up meeting over Bosch

FOLLOWING correspondence in The GEM on action to support the BOSCH workforce, readers will be interested to know that I am meeting with the Works Council, UNITE officials and Rhodri Morgan AM this week.

This is to follow up our three-hour meeting with BOSCH Chiefs in Stuttgart a few weeks ago, for which I met all my costs personally as the Vale of Glamorgan Assembly Member.

I have been working closely with the BOSCH Works Council, who formed part of the delegation with Rhodri Morgan AM to meet the BOSCH Chiefs in Stuttgart at Easter.

During a long and constructive meeting, we made the case for the best support package for the workforce; and to explore options for the future use of the BOSCH site to help secure a legacy from the company who have benefited from considerable Welsh public investment, as well as a dedicated and skilled workforce.

It is vital that we work together to secure this legacy to support this skilled workforce drawn from across south-east Wales, together with support for the local companies in the supply chain for BOSCH – and to seek future sustainable opportunities for this well-positioned site for the Welsh economy.

Jane Hutt, AM, (Labour Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan)

Rotary Young Musician Zone 3 final takes place

THE magnificent Bradenstoke Hall in St Donats Castle echoed to the sound of seven very talented young instrumentalists on the evening of March 24.

ABOVE: The Rotary final competitors.

The Zone 3 final of the Rotary Young Musician competition was held in this historic setting, the home of The United World College of the Atlantic, an international 6th form college overlooking the Bristol Channel.

Competitors were all winners of their local competitions from the Rotary clubs of Maesteg, Bridgend, Porthcawl, Neath, Swansea Valley, Llantwit Major and Port Talbot.

Hannah Thomas, a cellist from Porthcawl Comprehensive School, played a selection of music from J S Bach, Gabriel Fauré and Schumann.

She was followed by violinist Lucy Noden, a student at Brynteg Comprehensive School, Bridgend, who played pieces from Grieg and Monti.

Sara Friel, who is a student at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, played two pieces on the flute by Poulenc and Garibaldi.

The only brass instrumentalist, Frances Folland, a student at Dyffryn School Port Talbot, played the euphonium with pieces by Alan Menken and Charles Gounod.

Kate Colwell, who played the viola, was highly commended by the judges for her performance of *Concerto in G Major* by Telemann and *Christmas Dance* by Vaughan Williams. Kate attends Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.

The runner-up in the competition was harpist Stephanie Chick who attends Howells School in Cardiff. Stephanie played three pieces, Glinka's *Nocturne*, *Passacaille* by Handel and *Au Matin – Étude de Concert* by Tournier.

The competition winner, Luke Millard, a 16-year-old cellist who attends Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, played *Kol Nidrei* by Max Bruch and the first movement of Edouard Lalo's concerto with consummate skill and musicianship.

The adjudication panel was made up of Sally Tarlton, Sally Matheson and Helena Braithwaite, a well-known leading figure in the youth music scene in south Wales, stretching over many years.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Sandra Townsend, assistant district governor of Rotary District 1150, who announced that the winner Luke Millard would go on to compete against other zone winners at the grand final of the competition to be held at the Taliesen Theatre Swansea University, on Saturday May 8.

In closing the evening's event, Gareth Rees, who is president of the host Rotary Club of Llantwit Major, said that he was extremely impressed with the high standard achieved by the competitors, who ranged in age between 13 and 17 years of age, and wished Luke well in the final round of the competition.

TC

ABOVE: Winner Luke Millard with Gareth Rees.

Runner-up Stephanie Chick.

LLANFAIR PUPILS PUT ON AN EASTER BONNET SHOW...

ABOVE: A big Easter cheer from year-2!

ABOVE: The reception children in their bonnets.

PUPILS in Llanfair Primary School put on their own Easter bonnet and hat show just before the holiday break.

With children throughout the school taking part, there were plenty of imaginative creations on show!

Ministers see the work they do down on the farm!

AFTER being invited by Jane Hutt AM to visit the Amelia Trust Farm, the Minister for education, Leighton Andrews AM, was given a conducted tour through the woodland and farm yard, meeting staff and young people who benefit from opportunities at this pioneering 'Care Farm' in the Vale.

The Minister and Vale AM saw the excellent work The Amelia Trust Farm does with young people from all over south Wales.

On his way, he saw the way animal care and land management skills are taught to young people, opening up new opportunities and horizons in their lives.

The Vale AM commented: "The Amelia Trust Farm does such brilliant work with young people from across south Wales and I was keen for the Minister to see what they are achieving with the commitment and skills of the staff team, led by director Lorraine Brown.

"We discussed the contribution the farm can make to the 14-19 learning pathways range of learning opportunities, including animal care and land management skills."

Vale receives funding for hospital discharge plans

THE VALE is to receive a share of £2 million funding to help older people leave hospital more quickly.

The Vale has been awarded £90,136 for the next financial year to carry out minor but vital adaptations to older people's homes, to allow them to be discharged from hospital more quickly, the Assembly deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration, Jocelyn Davies, recently announced.

The Rapid Response Adaptations Programme (RRAP) will allow equipment such as ramps, handrails, safety alarms and door entry systems to be fitted.

The scheme is administered and monitored by Care and Repair Cymru and delivered by Care and Repair agencies.

Ms Davies said: "The Rapid Response Adaptations Programme provides a valuable service, that allows older people across Wales to get back to familiar surroundings more quickly, and continue living safely and independently in their own homes for as long as possible."

Cases from the Vale court

JOHN VINCENT EDWARDS (29) of Tennyson Road, Penarth, admitted damaging the window of a car to the value of £100, and assault.

He was given a community order and must complete 200 hours unpaid work in the next 12 months.

He must pay £100 in compensation and £85 prosecution costs also.

SCOTT BOWEN (34) of St Nicholas Close, Barry, admitted being in possession of an offensive weapon, namely a knuckleduster.

He was made subject to a community order and must complete 200 hours of unpaid work within the next 12 months.

He also has to pay £85 prosecution costs.

CHRISTOPHER DAVID JAMES BURGESS (19) of Hillfort Close, Ely, Cardiff, admitted criminal damage to the front door of the Bear's Head public house in Penarth costing £179.92.

He was fined £100 and was told to pay compensation of £179.92 to the public house.

Magistrates also ordered a payment of £85 towards prosecution costs.

ALEX COLLINS (19) of Windsor Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major, admitted damaging the tiles of a wall in Llantwit Major.

He was fined £85 and told to pay £85 prosecution costs.

TRYSTAN GAMMON (25) of Tensing Terrace, Barry, admitted possession of cannabis, a Class B drug.

Magistrates ordered a £65 fine.

JACK MARTIN (21) of Gladstone Road, Barry, admitted making off without paying a £6.50 taxi fare to First Line Taxis.

He was ordered to pay a fine of £145, compensation of £6.50 to the taxi firm and must also pay £85 prosecution costs.

Security work will change face of airport

WORK began this week on a new layout outside Cardiff Airport's terminal building to "comply with security requirements and longer-term development needs."

The airport has to implement security requirements which include increasing the distance between vehicles and the terminal building.

Passengers will have the option of a new 'priority drop-and-go' area, where a £1 fee will be charged, or a free drop-off and pick-up area in Car Park 1.

When completed, the free drop off and pick up area will be available in the renamed Car Park 1, formerly the Long Stay 2 car park, with a short walk to the terminal building.

A 24/7 shuttle bus will be also available for passengers requiring assistance.

The first 10 minutes will be free of charge, with the usual parking rates applied thereafter. Blue badge holders are entitled to 20 minutes free of charge. Passengers will still be able to drop-off outside the terminal building using the 'priority drop and go' area.

The facility will cost £1 for up to 10 minutes and 20 minutes for disabled blue badge holders.

A 'priority pick-up' area will also be available which remains in the Short Stay car park outside the terminal building, where a fee of £1 will be charged for a 20-minute stay.

Steve Hodgetts, director of business development and commercial explained:

"This work forms part of the long-term development of Wales' national airport, and is necessary to comply with the latest Government security advice.

"During construction works, temporary drop-off and pick-up arrangements will be in place where all vehicles visiting the airport will be directed to the existing short stay car park for free 20 minutes drop- off and pick-up, he added."

Plans to boost Vale transport announced

TRANSPORT schemes in the Vale could benefit from "significant investment" over the next five years.

Rail, bus and road schemes are included in the Welsh Assembly Government's National Transport Plan, and Coun Jeffrey James, cabinet member for planning and transportation, said: "All the schemes will improve access to the key settlement of Barry, and will assist passengers when travelling to and from Cardiff Airport."

The schemes include:

● The introduction of additional half-hourly services on the Vale of Glamorgan railway line, which will improve access to Cardiff Airport.

These are to start following Network Rail's Cardiff area resignalling scheme in 2014;

● An additional platform at Barry Station is planned for commencement in 2014;

● The introduction of a high-quality express bus service between Cardiff and Cardiff Airport;

● The Welsh Assembly taking forward with the Vale Council road safety improvements on the A4226 Five-Mile Lane to Barry.

Noting that the Vale will benefit from significant investment during the lifetime of the plan, Coun James, who is also chairman of the South East Wales Transport Alliance, added:

"I am particularly pleased with the announcement of the additional train services on the Vale of Glamorgan railway line.

"This scheme has been promoted for a number of years by both Sewta and the Vale Council and will benefit Rhoose and Llantwit Major residents, as well as travellers using Cardiff Airport."

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT, Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, Thursday, April 8, at 6.30pm.

WENVOE coffee and chat meeting, Beechtree Inn, April 8, at 11.30am.

PENDOYLAN Community Council meeting, Pendoylan School, April 8, at 7.45pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Communities First Office, Aberaeron Close, April 12, at 7pm.

DINAS POWYS PACT, Bethesda Hall, April 12, at 7pm.

ST AUGUSTINES PACT, Windsor Public House, April 13, at 7pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT, Cogan Leisure Centre, April 13, at 7pm.

PLYMOUTH PACT, Paget Rooms, April 14, at 7pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT, Llandough Memorial Hall, April 19, at 7pm.

LLANDOW PACT, Ewenny Village Hall, April 21, at 7pm.

Children's TV history

A NEW exhibition at Barry's Art Central charts changes in children's television.

Prints displaying characters from Nickelodeon's modern-day underwater adventurer SpongeBob SquarePants are on show, alongside classic characters from days gone by, including Bagpuss, Ivor the Engine and Mr Benn.

They are joined by faces from the Mister Men series, and Noddy.

There will also be animation art workshops on Saturdays from April 10-May 2.

The Barry Men's Forum gets a picture of London

AT our last meeting, Mr Adrian Warner, the Ogmore landscape photographer, took members of the Forum 'around' London using the magic of his beautiful photography.

His display was wonderfully varied and took in such delights as the astonishing new temple at Neasden and Stephenson's Rocket in the Science Museum at Kensington.

His camera caught the vivid colours on display in Kensington Gardens and the soaring height of Westminster Cathedral's tower, which, on completion, had the highest lift in London.

Forum members saw pictures of the Sherlock Holmes pub off Trafalgar Square, above which is the well-known museum containing many 'authentic' relics of the great detective himself.

Adrian had an interesting experience when photographing the environs of the Sidney Street siege, at which Winston Churchill was present as Home Secretary.

He was confused as to where the actual events had taken place and entered a local pub to make enquiries. Inside, he found a large picture gallery depicting the pre-First World War event.

Some of the drinkers in the pub were able to point out family relatives on the photographs who had been spectators at the time.

Our speaker rounded off his exhibition by showing scenes of the sun setting in a blaze of glory over the Bristol Channel, taken from his home. Without doubt, London has nothing to remotely compare with that!

Meetings of the Men's Forum are held every Thursday at 10.30am. New members are welcome. Telephone 029 2059 4881 for further information.

MAC TANNER

EMAIL US!

● *WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department:* ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

PENARTH and DISTRICT RAMBLERS NEWS

Walkers take a Tumble past the Tramroad, and on to the Punch Bowl!

CLIVE recently stood in at short notice for a cancelled walk and 10 walkers joined him for a trip up to the Blorenge, on what turned out to be a great day for walking.

ABOVE: The walkers dig in for a long climb.

Beginning on the south side at Keepers Pond (Pen-ffordd-goch) situated at 475-metres above sea level where there was a cool breeze blowing, they crossed the road and walked through The Tumble, allegedly named after Dic Shon, who tumbled down the steep slope, broke his leg and reached Garn Ddyrys where a forge once stood.

In 1795, a Blorenge quarry Tramroad was built, but this later gave way to Hill's Tramroad, named after Thomas Hill ,the manager of Blaenavon Ironworks.

This was built to carry pig iron from Blaenavon to Garn Ddyrys, where it was worked into wrought iron and was famous for the 1.5-mile tunnel connecting Pwll Du to Blaenavon.

In its heyday, 15 to 20 trams, each containing two tons of limestone, went through the tunnel; and later in the 1850s when the tramroad could not cope with the increased production, a double incline railway was constructed.

This crossed the mountain from near New Pit at Blaenavon to Pwll Du and enabled four trams to be pulled up and down the one mile incline.

At Garn Ddyrys, they passed the site of the old Queen Victoria Inn, where in 1946 during a very lively party, there was a loud creak and the floor gave way; 30-customers ended up in the cellar and no doubt experienced the biggest hangover of their lives!

Following the tramroad there was still some evidence of its industrial past in the shape of some sleepers where the tramroad rails were fixed.

Further along, they saw the cut and shut tunnel which most likely served to protect the tunnel from ground slippage. Nearby there once stood a winch house for the Llanfoist incline that carried the wagons down to the wharf, before their journey along the Monmouth/Brecon canal to reach Newport.

The group carried on to the Punchbowl, originally carved out of the hillside by glaciers during the last ice age but the present lake is man-made and has a small islet in the centre.

This was a popular place for illegal bare knuckle fighting and in 1889 (allegedly) a fight between David Rees from Nantyglo and William Williams of Brynmawr lasted 42 rounds, taking 102 minutes to complete and all for a purse of £10 – sheer madness!

On the surrounding wooded slopes there are many types of trees, some more than 200-years old.

After a pause, it was time to climb to the top of Blorenge, standing at 559-metres high above the River Usk, where the group were glad to stop in the sunshine and enjoy their lunch while taking in views towards Skirrid, Sugar Loaf, Pen Cerrigcalch and the Black Mountain ridges beyond.

Refreshed, the group walked along the edge of the Blorenge and upon their return to the start still had fairly clean boots – very much appreciated and rather unheard of during recent weather conditions.

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

The United States comes a step closer to travellers

INTERNATIONAL travellers in the Vale and rest of south Wales, can now fly to the United States from Cardiff Airport via Ireland, rather than travelling to Bristol or London for connecting flights.

Aer Lingus is now operating services from Cardiff to Dublin with connections to the USA, including New York (John F Kennedy Airport), Boston, Chicago and Orlando.

The service is being run under the Aer Lingus Regional brand.

Connecting with transatlantic flights in Dublin allows onward passengers to clear immigration quickly before reaching the USA.

The Dublin flights from Cardiff will see an increase in services, operating three times daily from Monday to Friday, and on Sundays, with two flights taking place on Saturdays.

Aer Lingus is also operating a daily service to Cork. In total, the two new services will connect Ireland and Wales 52 times each week offering frequent opportunities to reach Ireland for business or tourism.

The flights have replaced the existing Aer Arann service following the recent announcement that the airline will be operating as a franchise partner of Aer Lingus.

Spencer Birns, Cardiff Airport's head of air service development, commented:

"The new services offer many advantages to south Wales travellers, including better business timings on Cardiff to Dublin flights, and the advantage of being able to clear immigration in Dublin before travelling on connecting flights to the USA.

"Wales has many business links with the US, especially with cities such as New York, Chicago and Boston, and these connections will be a major benefit for travellers who visit the States on a regular basis."

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre ***(Telephone 01656 725219).***

CAN YOU GIVE HOLBY A HOME?

THIS WEEK:
Holby ***is a five-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier.***

HOLBY.

A centre spokeswoman reports: "He is a fab boy, with a lovely nature. He is friendly with people, but he doesn't get on with other dogs.

"He needs a home with someone who has owned Staffs before. He needs to be the only dog in the home. He will need an active owner who can provide him with plenty of exercise."

Acting star Jay to debut on Casualty

ABOVE: On the Casualty set with fellow star Tristan Gemmill, who plays Dr Adam Truman.

BARRY acting star Jay Ruckley makes his bow on one of Britain's most popular TV programmes this weekend.

Jay, aged 11, will play the part of a youngster called Sam in the hospital drama *Casualty*.

The show is due to be screened on BBC1 on Saturday, April 10, at 9pm.

Jay already has a long running hit to his name, *Grandpa in my Pocket*, in which he stars with James Bolam.

Jay told The GEM: "I play the part of nine-year-old Sam, whose parents are breaking up, and who feels neglected. In trying to help his mother, he spills hot water over his brother's arm.

"Last summer, I went for an audition with *Casualty* and heard nothing. Luckily, they remembered me when they were casting the role of Sam, which was bigger than the part I originally went for."

The All Saints youngster, who attends The Workshop, an acting school in Cardiff run by Peter Wooldridge, filmed Casualty over December and January.

He will appear in the next four episodes.

Karma Beauty is backing Help for Heroes

KARMA BEAUTY, now enjoying its second year of trading in Cowbridge, is delighted to be holding a Mad Hatter's tea party in aid of Help For Heroes on Saturday, April 17, from 1pm-4pm.

Help For Heroes is Karma Beauty's official charity for 2010 and proceeds from the day will be donated to this worthwhile charity in aid of injured service personnel.

Karma Beauty offers luxury beauty and holistic treatments at affordable prices, making beauty available for all. Mel and the team will be hosting the Mad Hatter's tea party with cakes, cookies and treats served with tea, coffee and soft drinks.

Wear your best tea party hat and receive a special prize awarded for the maddest hat at the party!

Balloon modelling, luxury raffle and introductory offers on all manicures and Indian head massages will be available, as well as homemade cakes that you can buy on the day to take home.

Serving tea on the day will be Simon, Mel's husband, who is running this year's Virgin London Marathon on April 24, also in aid of Help For Heroes.

As part of the support for Help For Heroes, Karma Beauty is donating four hours of free treatment for the wives of service personnel at RAF St Athan, as well as 10 per cent discount for all serving personnel.

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LETTERS EXTRA

STUTTGART VISIT: The cost of trip queried

LETTERS EXTRA

THE glib letter from Alun Cairns published in The GEM on April 1 cannot be reconciled with the leaflet sent by the Vale of Glamorgan Conservatives to Dr David Ellis in Llantwit Major.

In the leaflet, Mr Cairns claims to have gone to Stuttgart as the result of anger among local Conservatives. In the leaflet, he is the local Conservative parliamentary candidate.

In The GEM he suggests he went as the shadow Industry Minister in the Assembly with responsibility "in any part of Wales", but, nevertheless, he claims the visit was financed by himself and colleagues.

Now that it has been used by the Vale Conservatives as an electioneering ploy, the cost of the visit should be disclosed publicly.

All Mr Cairns will declare on this subject is that he understands a similar trip by Labour and Plaid may have cost the public purse more than £5,000.

Dr Ellis is entitled to a full answer to his question: how much did Mr Cairns' visit to Stuttgart cost, and who exactly paid for it at the time?

Roger Everest, Pontyclun

Footnote: In fairness, Mr Cairns clearly stated in his letter that "nothing was drawn from the public purse".

Give us back our old analogue TV!

SINCE the switch-off of the TV analogue signal for ITV and BBC, and yet another retuning of my digital set top box, I have been having trouble with the ITV Wales signal.

It goes up and down like a proverbial yo yo, causing the picture to break up and freeze intermittently.

Is the BBC blocking the signal to increase their viewing figures? All other channels seem to be fine. I have had to resort to tuning in to the ITV West analogue signal, which will be available until 2012.

Apparently, London will be the last location to go digital; is this because if they can't watch Eastenders there will be riots on the streets? We poor souls in Wales are yet again used as guinea pigs until they can get the signal level right.

I will campaign against radio going digital, because this is maybe the only thing we can access.

The benefit is that we will save the cost of the TV licensing fee.

James Wild, Llantwit Major

Hunt for Gran

I WONDER if any of your readers can help me in my search for my grandmother?

Her name was Ethel Hilda Young and her last known address was 52 Mount Earl, Bridgend, in May/June 1945.

Any information would be appreciated.

Roger Meadows, 10 Cromwell Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0JG. Email: rgrmeadows@yahoo.co.uk

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Paul Gentile's expert Troll kits advice

DON'T miss Sunday April 18, when customers will be viewing the new limited edition Troll kits at Paul Gentile, The Capitol Centre, Cardiff.

The eye-catching sweet floral collection kits are available in two distinctive colourways, decorative pinks and vivid, vibrant blues.

The beads are individually decorated and blend beautifully together to create an irresistible combination.

There are also the new dazzling delicate hanging Tassel Beads – beautiful beads inspired by the delightful colours and patterns of a garden blooming in spring!

A spokesman said: "Join us for light refreshments, a free raffle and expert advice on your trolls."

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EASTER weekend was a little disappointing. Most of us hoped the weather would improve enough to encourage us out of hibernation. The temperature is now rising - so the time is right to transform our garden areas.

If your mower has been stored away through the winter, perhaps it needs the blades sharpened or maintaining? Is your fence in need of attention after winter storms? Check out what needs repairing or renewing around your garden.

Our spring feature includes companies with the products and services to help bring the life back into your surroundings.

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It is an affordable luxury that will add value to your home, and turn your dreams into a reality.

Future Window Solutions undertakes the whole build process, from foundations, brickwork, electrics, plastering and final installation, leaving you to sit back and relax in the knowledge that your conservatory is in the best possible hands.

A spokesman added: "We offer a wide range of styles for you to choose from, including Victorian, Edwardian, gable ended, P-shaped, lean-to, double hipped and new generation Orangeries."

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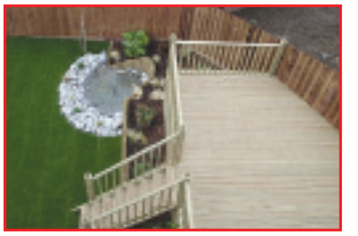

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SPRING is here

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Plants & Pots

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We specialise in mature trees, shrubs, conifers, hedging as well as our architectural feature plants including topiary, palms, bamboo and olives.

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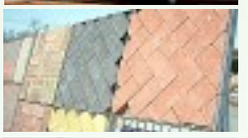

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We are about one and three-quarter miles along this road on the right-hand side.

Richard Couzens welcomes customers old and new

RICHARD Couzens Machinery Ltd is going from strength-to-strength, supplying and maintaining both agricultural machinery to the farming industry and horticultural equipment to the general public.

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The company team is local to the Vale and has a wealth of experience and knowledge. Staff are all friendly, reliable and helpful .

Richard would like to thank all existing customers for their past loyalty and looks forward to their continued custom.

He also welcomes new customers – so come and look around!

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HOW TO FIND US ...

Entering the Vale Business Park, Llandow, you follow the main road into the site and keep straight ahead, practically to the end to where road narrowing pillars are situated. Turn right and then take the first left; the entrance is at the end of this street.

Call for more information on 01446 771660 or email us on: couzensmachinery@btconnect.com.

Homes & Gardens

Revealing the 10 top tips so you can relax in the perfect conservatory

RELAX in a conservatory on a summer's day, and it soon becomes apparent how it can transform the way in which you use your home.

Hugely versatile and appealing, a conservatory maximises living space, whether it's used as a peaceful year-round sanctuary for some much-needed 'me' time, as an informal dining space, or even as a playroom.

Gareth Short, conservatories and glazing business manager at the Leekes department store, explained: "Adding a conservatory to your home can bring a whole new dimension to how you live.

"You can now choose from an even more extensive range of styles and finishes than ever before, and our experts will tailor whatever design you want to suit your requirements."

With a little expert advice on how to go about making an investment that can add as much as five per cent to the value of your property, you'll soon be well on the way to creating the additional living space you've always wanted, just by sticking to a few 'rules'.

STEP 1 - CHOICE

There's so much choice when it comes to choosing the perfect conservatory that you'd be forgiven for not knowing where to start.

While the classic white uPVC conservatory remains massively popular due to its low cost, advances in building technology in recent years has also increased the choices available.

Hardwood conservatories are a great alternative to uPVC, with tiled roof conservatories becoming more sought after as they blend seamlessly with your home.

Demand for traditional-style orangeries, characterised by their vaulted roofs, is also growing, adding an air of sophistication to any living space.

STEP 2 – DESIGN AND PLANNING

Most specialist conservatory companies offer a comprehensive service which includes free design and planning.

An experienced conservatory designer will have extensive knowledge of the design and planning process from the initial technical service through to the creation of a computer-aided design which will enable you to visualise the proposed layout and overall look of your new conservatory before you make a commitment.

STEP 3 – PLANNING PERMISSION

Determining whether or not you need planning permission is essential and this is an area that a well-established, reputable company will be happy to take care of.

STEP 4 – INSTALLATION

The free design and planning service that most reputable retailers offer usually extends to installation too. Ensure your new conservatory is installed by approved qualified craftsmen who are able to take care of everything from the building of the base through to the fitting of the glass.

Craftsmen who are qualified to a high standard will carry out the job safely and with the minimum of disruption.

STEP 5 – QUALITY

Research is essential when making a considerable investment in your home and opting for a reputable company that promises a quality product and service is of the utmost importance.

Look out for industry accredited companies who are members of BBA and FENSA. Make sure you opt for a design that is timeless enough to look great for many years to come.

STEP 6 – AFFORDABILITY

Investing in a new conservatory can be one of the most costly purchases you will ever make as a homeowner, so having the option to spread the cost is always appealing. Look out for flexible payment options, including low affordable monthly payments, home improvement loans and interest free credit options which can be arranged to suit you.

STEP 7 – INNOVATION

Innovations are always taking place in the conservatory and glazing industry.

Developments in technology now mean that much of the glass used in conservatories is self-cleaning, with glass that can help to reduce heat loss by up to 90 per cent also used in many constructions.

STEP 8 – FINISHING TOUCHES

As with most things in life, it's the finishing touches that make all the difference and a full interior design service is the perfect way to complete the look of your conservatory.

An interior designer can advise on the best way to furnish your new living space – will you opt for cane furniture or fabric, hard wearing floor tiles or wooden flooring, spot lights or an elaborate chandelier?

Blinds are also all important in a conservatory, especially when summer arrives.

STEP 9 – 10 YEAR GUARANTEE

Ask a sales consultant about a guarantee – most specialist conservatory companies are so confident in their products that they'll want you to have peace of mind for many years to come, so a guarantee will come as standard.

STEP 10 – AFTER SALES SERVICE

Once the installation of your conservatory is complete, your level of customer service should continue to be as supportive as at the initial stages of design and planning.

A dedicated after sales support team should be on hand to offer assistance in dealing with any queries you may have once your conservatory has been installed.

Slade Farm gardens put on charity show

Peter and Rosamund Davies with Alun Cairns AM.

HUNDREDS of people flocked to see the gardens at Slade Farm in Southerndown on Easter Sunday, under the National Open Garden scheme.

Supported by regional AM, Alun Cairns, Peter and Rosamund Davies opened their garden to the public under the scheme and raised hundreds of pounds for charity in the process.

Slade Farm is believed to be the first in Glamorgan to open this year, and the woodland garden boasted masses of early spring flowers, mature specimen trees, living willow arbours, rose and clematis pergola, terraced lawns, orchard and herbaceous borders.

Mr Cairns said: "In spite of the recent wet weather, the gardens were in superb condition.

"Peter and Rosamund had also organised an Easter egg hunt for the children, which went down exceptionally well.

"They really deserve to be congratulated on their hard work.

"We also need to recognise the work of the Brownies, who helped with the teas and cakes.

"It was a delightful event, showing a fantastic garden and raising money for charity in the process."

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Homes & Gardens

GREEN WASTE COLLECTIONS RESUME AROUND THE VALE

WITH the arrival of warmer weather, residents in the Vale are to receive their regular kerbside fortnightly garden waste collections.

Garden waste bags are collected on the same week as cardboard and plastic recycling, and content should include grass, shrub cuttings, leaves, plants, flowers and most weeds.

Figures from last year (April 2008 – March 2009) show that more than 4,100 tonnes of garden waste were collected, highlighting the exceptional effort put in by Vale residents.

Early figures from April 2009 to the end of March 2010 indicate that residents have exceeded last year's tonnage.

Coun Geoff Cox, cabinet member for visible and building services, was keen to praise how well residents have done.

He said: "Our Vale garden waste is sent to Penllyn Farm in Cowbridge where it is composted, turned into a soil enhancer and reused back on their farm land.

• Front row: from Cowbridge Compost – Damien Burnell, senior tractor driver, Coun Geoff Cox, John Homfray, estate partner, Mike Hallet, farm manager and Andrew Shackell, cattle manager.

"I would like to say to our residents and all those involved, well done and keep up the good work, for this year too."

Garden waste must be placed out by 7am in either green reusable fabric bags, costing £1, or biodegradable bags (three for £1).

Each bag is sold at both the council's Civic and Dock offices in Barry, the Alps office in Wenvoe, as well as from Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Penarth libraries.

The recycling officer, Michelle Fitzpatrick said: "As the weather improves, we urge residents to remember that the main purpose of any of their recycling efforts is to reduce the burden we place on landfill. We are delighted that more and more residents get involved every year but we would still urge people to consider whether they could do more."

For more information on recycling, telephone 01446 700111, email visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or visit the council's website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle.

Creative Window & Build Solutions has expanded its product portfolio

CREATIVE Window & Build Solutions are certainly living up to their "more than just a window company" claim, with a range of Modena Orangeries being the latest addition to their extensive range of products and services.

Local husband and wife team Dean and Leanne Edmonds are delighted by the recent interest in their contemporary range of new-generation orangeries.

Dean explained: "Here at Creative, we are proud to be one of the few installation companies that promote bespoke products and services. Our range of orangeries are designed and built by Creative Window & Build Solutions to your exact requirements.

"We even offer interior design packages for those finishing touches."

Call Dean or Leanne at Creative on 01446 746353 to discuss the many options available.

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CREATIVE • WINDOW & BUILD SOLUTIONS LTD goes Orange

We have Showhomes available to view shortly in Sully and Barry

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our range of orangeries for orders placed during April with this voucher!

Orangeries represent the ideal combination of the benefits and looks of conservatories and more conventional extensions. They are wonderfully light and airy spaces due to the glazed roofs as well as being cosy and inviting throughout the year. For this reason orangeries provide unique multi-purpose living space. Recently there has been a significant growth in popularity – customers who might have opted for a conservatory are now increasingly more likely to choose an orangery. Our range of orangeries are designed to complement your existing home more sympathetically. An orangery is undoubtedly the new generation conservatory. More than just a conservatory and less expensive than a traditional extension, the Creative Modena range fuses the best of both. Once built, you will wonder how you ever lived without this new, inspirational living space. A Contemporary glass lantern roof, underfloor heating, recessed lighting and bi-fold doors are just a few of the products available within our design package.

So, if you are thinking of a conservatory or extension, but want something different

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to arrange your free survey, or to view one of our Modena showhomes

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AT HIGH STREET TRADERS' EASTER PARADE EVERY CHILD WAS A WINNER

ON Saturday, dozens of Vale children attended the High Street Traders' Easter bonnet parade and Mad Hatter's tea party.

The traders' chairman Anthony Hopkins said: "I'd like to thank the judges Sarah, Mathew and Sharon, Mathew of Monkey Mania for the Play Bus, Dr Bob for the balloons, Karen and Helen for promoting the event, Alexis, Ryan, Tamsin and Lisa for keeping control, and Sharon for organising everything!"

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.
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DAY GROUPS

WEDNESDAY

Penarth – 9.30am & 11.45am
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square
Linda 01446 761150

THURSDAY

Barry – 10.15am
Castleland Community Centre
Belvedere Crescent
Niki 01446 740394

Cowbridge – 10.00am
The Duke of Wellington
High Street
Lina 01656 890708

EVENING GROUPS

MONDAY

Barry – 4.30 & 6.30pm
Brynsion Hall, Junction of Court Road and Llanover Street
Lorraine 01446 407002

Penarth – 6.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church
Elfed Road
Niki 01446 740394

Rhoose – 6.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre
Celtic Way
Helen 01446 750738

TUESDAY

Barry – 5.45pm
Market Street Social Club
Upstairs Function Room
Joanne 01446 404897

Barry – 4.30pm
St. Davids Methodist Church Hall,
Winston Road
Annamarie 01446 736534

Llantwit Major – 4.45 & 6.45pm
Old School, Wine Street
Helen 01446 750738

Sully – 6.30pm
The Old School, South Road
Niki 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY

Barry – 4.45 & 6.45pm
St.Francis
Millennium Centre
Park Road,
Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie 01446 736534

Barry – 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne 01446 404897

Cowbridge – 6.00pm
The Duke of Wellington, High Street
Lina 01656 890708

Penarth 5.00 & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square Linda 01446 761150

THURSDAY

Barry – 6.00pm
Highlight Park Comm. Centre, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Dinas Powys – 6.30pm
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CLASH OF THE TITANS? – IT'S MORE TRASH OF THE TITANS!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

LOUIS LETERRIER has done an excellent job of building up his directorial profile in recent years.

After coming under the tutelage of Luc Besson, Leterrier made his bow with *Unleashed*, swiftly followed by the daftly enjoyable *Transporter 2*.

Having shown he knew his way around the action genre, Leterrier was handed *The Incredible Hulk*, and while his effort wasn't an all-encompassing hit, he showed enough ability to be tasked with bringing *Clash of the Titans* back to the big screen.

The remake of the 1981 original, noted for Ray Harryhausen's stop-motion effects work, sees Perseus (Sam Worthington), a half-man, half-god, lose his family when Hades (Ralph Fiennes) kills them during a battle between men and gods.

When the city of Argos is put under threat by Hades, sent by Zeus (Liam Neeson) to show man the power of the gods, Perseus decides to stop him, and with a small group (including Mads Mikkelsen, Gemma Arterton and Nicholas Hoult) sets out to stop Hades before he can unleash the Kraken...

This review starts with a warning; there are two versions of *Clash...* showing at your local cinema, a 2-D version and a 3-D version. Under no circumstances should you watch the latter, given the complete lack of anything remotely three-dimensional taking place. It seems to be merely a marketing gambit by the studio, as opposed to a genuine attempt to make a film with the benefits of new technology, and should be avoided, lest you want to watch a slightly fuzzy film with the occasionally weak moment of '3-D'.

Rant over, and now onto the real meat of the review – and sadly it's not good news. For much like the 3-D, *Clash of the Titans* is a film similarly lacking in any real positives, and feels more like a cash-in of the original's goodwill than an attempt to make a film that bears any cinematic relevance today. Put bluntly, this *Clash* is absolute trash, and not overly enjoyable trash at that.

It is churlish to compare and contrast with the original film, which, Harryhausen's stop-motion aside, is an average piece of work with the odd moment of style, but it seems *Clash...* 2010 has taken the overblown nature of the story and assembled a film that is pointless, episodic and far too reliant on action sequences that are thrown in in lieu of creating a memorable storyline.

Coming in at a running time of 106 minutes, the film makes an honourable attempt to maintain the pace and excitement by pretty much leaping from one action sequence to the next.

All well and good if it intended to be a throw-away action film, but given the nature of the story trying to be told, it merely smacks of the scriptwriters failing to offer any substance to the story.

Given the situation Perseus finds himself in, learning he is half-man, half-god, do we get to see any real emoting about what he has to do? Of course we don't, instead he just mopes around stony-faced, telling everyone that he is all man and will do what he has to do without the assistance of the gods (though ironically having to use the help of the gods to overcome villainy!)

It seems any concession to make the story more developed and nuanced has been thrown out by the screenwriters, who number three and seem to lack any idea of writing anything other than action sequence after action sequence.

It's little surprise that with a script like that, the performances fail to enliven proceedings. Sam Worthington, who after *Terminator:Salvation* and *Avatar* is quickly turning into the go-to guy for characters thrown into the deep end, fails to elicit anything resembling the intensity of the aforemetioned performances.

Instead, his Perseus is lacking in charisma, and is little more than a footnote as a character – as we learn little about him throughout the course of the film.

While the likes of Mads Mikkelsen and Liam Cunningham do their best to make their swarthy soldiers a little more memorable than most of the other characters, Gemma Arterton finds herself wasted as Io, a character seemingly only created to pass on handy hints and tips as the group make their way from scene to scene.

The actress is more than capable of better, but is given little time to do anything, something that similarly applies to the casting of Liam Neeson and Ralph Fiennes.

While the former looks like the cousin of Ron Burgundy with his outlandish facial hair, it seems he can coast by on gravitas alone, offering little with his turn, while Fiennes takes time out of chewing the scenery on the *Harry Potter* franchise to have a nibble on the *Clash...* set in a largely forgettable role, low on villainy but high on melodrama.

That they can cast Danny Huston as Poseidon, only to restrict him to one line, shows that the filmmakers were more concerned with appearances than that they were hiring the right talent; no doubt the latter three actors will be chortling happily to themselves, having no doubt banked a tidy pay packet for (in Huston's case especially) nothing.

Louis Leterrier's love of the original was a big factor in him signing up for this remake, but he shows little flair or skill that marks him out as director of any real talent.

Certainly he shows he can handle the epic scale of the film, but the reference points here are the likes of *Lord of the Rings* and *Pirates of the Carribean*, the film lacking a visual identity of its own.

He utilises the CGI effects well, with some of the beasts they encounter being well rendered, but there is no real build to the various sequences. Medusa, the Kraken et al, while looking good, don't quite carry the menace you would hope for, and the final sequence in particular feels rushed and far too simplistic.

While there are some moments that are cleverly executed, the overall feel of *Clash of the Titans* is of a gigantic letdown. The performances are weak, the story rushed, and the film looks like a retread of other fantasy films without establishing its own personality. It all adds up to a poor experience, a film that fails to excite and, actually, bores a little – and the less said about the 3-D experience the better!

VERDICT – A dull and weak remake of an average film, *Clash of the Titans* does no-one involved any good, and makes for a less than worthwhile viewing experience. The performances are lifeless and tread water while the story is rushed and lacking in depth.

A bore in both 2-D and 3-D, *Clash of the Titans* is a film best left alone. *Poor*.

WHAT'S ON

Tory surgery

THE Llantwit Major Conservatives will hold a surgery in the Heritage Room at the Town Hall at 11am-12noon on Saturday, April 10.

Fibromyalgia support

THE Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group monthly meeting will be on Tuesday April 13.

Contact the group leader Barbara Clissett on 0845 345 5813 for further details. Calls are charged at standard rate.

Out and About with The GEM

May Ball at The Bear

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School PTA has announced that the May Ball will take place on May 7 at 7.30pm.

The popular annual black tie event will be held in The Bear Hotel.

Tickets are £40 and include a sumptuous three-course dinner with dancing late into the night to the strains of 'The Love Handles'.

Join the bidding in our 'Money Can't Buy Auction' and take part in the party games – it all combines to make it a thoroughly unforgettable evening.

Tables are in twelves so bring your friends along, or alternatively, meet new friends by joining a 'pot luck' table.

To avoid disappointment book your tickets early by calling Caroline on 01446 792320.

CL

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 612.

- **£2000:** 817480.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £500, was not claimed this week.**
- **£10:** 341117; 201444; 498952; 356327; 338210; 124360; 673780; 161566; 206353; 190866; 174930; 233115; 667330; 199755; 556366; 574222; 846612; 776124; 628332; 221935.
- **£5:** 477862; 648092; 472996; 732892; 579799; 666246; 149931; 753453; 662323; 448497; 577786; 898734; 653567; 641219; 703208; 396977; 399060; 293592; 473195; 259829; 358773; 350212; 896846; 516544; 871353; 721329; 527848; 246237; 775354; 658386; 384215; 402142; 457772; 137322; 813260; 835689; 798941; 141622; 232587; 786428; 172190; 773816; 877782; 327416; 164174; 375002; 102382; 314263; 577520; 694547; 439060; 275097; 466280; 509033; 359720; 391509; 839898; 285368; 882793; 893366.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Art over time at Barry station

Artist Claire Davies begins painting her installation, watched by Barry Station café customer, Tony Cutlan.

THE Travellers Gallery in Barry Station, Broad Street, is being 'Reclaimed by Nature' in 'An Art Installation Over Time' painted directly onto the walls of the gallery by artist Claire Davies.

Travellers and commuters can watch the process unfold week by week.

"This exciting project is the first installation we have had in the Travellers Gallery", said Eve Hart, a member of the planning group which organises the exhibition programme.

"Claire Davies has shown in the gallery before, but this is her first one-person exhibition here. We are sure it will be very popular."

The installation is open on Mondays to Friday mornings, until May 31.

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT, Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, April 8, at 6.30pm.

YSTRADOWEN Coffee and Chat, White Lion Public House on April 6, at 11.30am.

ST BRIDES MAJOR PACT, St Brides Church Hall on April 7, at 6pm.

WENVOE Coffee and Chat, Beechtree Inn on April 8, at 11.30am.

DINAS POWYS PACT, Bethesday Hall on April 12, at 7pm.

ST AUGUSTINES PACT, Windsor Public House on April 13, at 7pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT, Cogan Leisure Centre on April 13, at 7pm.

PLYMOUTH PACT, Paget Rooms on April 14, at 7pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, please contact your local Neighbourhood Policing team or you can log onto www.our-bobby.com

Ty Hafan's plea to 'dress up or down for a pound'

TY HAFAN, the family hospice for young lives, is asking local schools, organisations and groups to take part in their 'Dress Up or Down for a Pound' campaign on April 30.

The life-limited children and young people who visit Ty Hafan in Sully, love to dress up and have fun while making the most of every precious moment they have left with their families. People can show their support for them and join in the fun by dressing up or down and paying a pound so these life-limited children, young people and their families continue to get the comfort, care and support they so desperately need.

Hayley Mason, a member of the busy family support team at Ty Hafan, remembers the many dressing up sessions which have taken place at the hospice.

"In the past ten years I have been a cowgirl, a fairy, a shepherd, a sheep, a medieval queen, an army cadet, a snowman, a pirate, a Christmas present, a Christmas tree and a cracker! There is nothing we wouldn't do to raise a smile."

However you decide to dress on April 30, by donating just £1 to Ty Hafan you can help to keep on raising those smiles and making the world of difference to the lives of those who use Ty Hafan's services.

For more information on how you can take part in "Dress Up or Down for a Pound" visit www.dressupordownforapound.co.uk or contact Gaynor on 029 2067 2060.

Valeways walk

JOIN the head gardener of Dyffryn Gardens on Friday, May 14 for a special guided tour of the grounds as part of the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival.

Learn more about the seasonal plants as well as the newly restored walled garden.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about the principles of Thomas Mawson's design, the acclaimed landscape architect commissioned by the Cory Family in early 19th Century.

Booking is essential. While this guided walk is free, discounted admission charges apply.

Visit www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk for the full programme and online booking facility.

Phone bookings and enquiries can also be made by calling Valeways on 01446 749000.

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Tues 27 April 7.30pm, Weds 28 April 1.30pm, 7.30pm
Creation (PG)
Paul Bettany, Jennifer Connelly, Toby Jones.
Tues 4 May 7.30pm, Weds 5 May 1.30pm, 7.30pm
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Next surgery: Saturday April 17th at 115 High Street, Barry, CF62 7DT from 9.30 am to 11.30 am
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Barry Island Railway Club enjoys exclusive video film screening

BARRY Island Railway Group recently enjoyed a large screen video presentation at the Barry Docks Conservative Club in Station Street, Barry.

The two-hour show started with exclusive video of American freight diesels being unloaded at Newport Docks last November.

The 3600 hp class 70 locomotives will be used by Freightliner to haul some of the heaviest trains in the UK, and only a small group of reporters and photographers were there to witness their arrival.

More than 400 freight locos have been imported through the docks since 1999, and these were the first from Pennsylvania USA.

We then travelled by train from Cardiff to see the brand new steam loco Tornado.

She then took us on the East Coast mainline from York to Newcastle.

This was followed by more video of her at Cardiff and Swansea, and finally with our cameraman for a ride in the cab along the West Somerset Railway.

Built over a period of 19 years, it was privately funded at a cost of £3m.

Local interest was satisfied with views of the last train to Parc Slip open cast mine, Newport Railfare in 1997, a passenger train through Cardiff Docks, and Aberthaw Power Station open day in May 1997,

Finally, steam specials to Treherbert, Rhymney and Radyr, and a visit to Canton Depot in 1996, as well as the the last steam locos still in store at Barry in 2009 ended a full evening's entertainment

The next meeting will be on April 29, featuring 'Dr Richard Griffiths and his Tramway to Pontypridd' with Brian Davies.

MHW

ABOVE: New diesel locomotives arriving in Newport.

VINTAGE CRAFT SALE

THERE will be a vintage craft sale on Saturday, April 10, in Wenvoe Community Centre, 10am – 4pm.

Stalls will be selling vintage brocante, fabrics, fashions, jewellery and handmade pieces

Fine under-14 cup win for Dinas Powys girls

THE under-14 Dinas Powys girls football team continued their winning ways recently, with a 3-1 victory over Cardiff City in the south Wales under-14 Tesco area cup.

The match was played at Aberaman Park and Dinas Powys went into the final with the tag of favourites, having been undefeated all season and having beaten Cardiff City in the league.

Nevertheless, it was Cardiff City who started brighter and a few nerves showed in the Dinas play. In truth, they were fortunate to go into half-time with a 1-0 lead, although the goal scored by Shanella Evans was a superb finish as she latched on to a through ball.

During the first half, Cardiff City hit the woodwork twice, although on the second occasion, credit must go to the goalkeeper, Mica Buffin, who made a marvellous fingertip save, pushing the ball onto the bar.

When the Dinas Powys girls came out in the second half, they were a completely different team and totally dominated the rest of the game.

Indeed, the only real threat Cardiff imposed on the Dinas Powys goal was a harshly-judged penalty, which in fairness, the Cardiff City striker dispatched with considerable composure.

Many teams would let their heads drop in such situations, but this team has proved throughout the season to be made of sterner stuff and they immediately responded with a well-taken goal by striker Erin Murray.

Shortly thereafter, a Dinas corner kick caused mayhem in the Cardiff City penalty area and Knisha Underdown sneaked the ball in to give them breathing space for the final quarter of the game, which they saw out without any great difficulty.

The team is on course for a double, with four games left in their league campaign and only the bottom teams to play. They have the luxury of being able to afford to lose two games and still win the title.

The girls are also now starting their South Wales Girls Cup campaign, and so a unique treble is not out of the question.

In the Tesco Cup, they now go through to the national finals representing the South Wales Football Association against the other five county associations.

These finals will be held at the university playing fields, Cardiff, on Sunday, April 18, with the winners going through to represent Wales at the UK finals at the Reebok Stadium on May 16.

Congratulations to the team from parents, coaches, and all who have supported them throughout the season.

MW

ABOVE: The victorious Dinas Powys girls under-14 side.

Barrivale Bridge Club news update

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, March 23 – First, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones with 59.90 per cent.

Second were Kay Dyer and Mick Green (56.25).

Third were Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews (55.73).

Hilary Laurence and Vivien Liles won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, telephone 01446 733425.

174 Holton Road
Barry
Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 4HN

GROVE ESTATES

BENDRICK ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bed mid terrace in popular location
- 2 reception rooms
- Gas central heating
- Some original features remain
- Gas Central Heating
- Offered freehold, with vacant possession & no chain

£104,950

GREENACRES, BARRY
- 3 bedroom semi detached property in popular location
- Immaculately presented
- Conservatory
- Garage conversion offering 2nd reception room
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Offered freehold

£150,000

PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
- 2 bedroom semi detached bungalow in sought after location
- Converted loft space providing 2 additional rooms (no building regs available)
- Double driveway
- Good sized rear garden
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Offered freehold

£209,950

ST JULIAN CLOSE, BARRY
- 3 bedroom semi detached property in popular location
- 2 reception rooms
- Large driveway
- In need of some refurbishment throughout
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£109,950

ELM GROVE, BARRY
- 3 bedroom semi detached in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Off road parking
- In need of refurbishment throughout
- Offered freehold, with vacant possession & no chain

£99,950

BEATRICE ROAD, BARRY
- Well presented 2 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Viewing highly recommended
- Offered freehold

£125,000

LYDSTEP ROAD, BARRY
- 2 bedroom bungalow
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Driveway
- Unfurnished

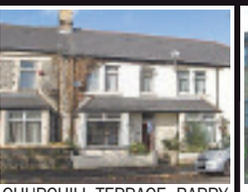
£550pcm

LOWER GUTHRIE STREET, BARRY
- 3 bedroom bay fronted terrace
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Unfurnished

£550pcm

RADNOR GREEN, BARRY
- 2 bedroom detached bungalow
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Off road parking
- Garage
- Unfurnished

£550pcm



CHURCHILL TERRACE, BARRY
- 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Unfurnished

£550pcm

GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY
- 2 bedroom end link property
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Driveway
- Unfurnished

£525pcm

HARVEY STREET, BARRY
- 2 bedroom mid terrace
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Unfurnished

£500pcm

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Period 2 bedroom cottage. Historic location. 2 reception rooms. Kitchen/breakfast. Bathroom & ensuite. Private cottage garden.
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Detached Family Home. 4 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions. Cul de Sac Location. Well Appointed Bathroom. Gas Fired Heating, Double Glazed, Garage. Viewing Recommended.
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£195,000

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Detached Family Home. 3 Bedrooms. Well presented. Family Kitchen/Diner. Gas fired heating. Double glazed. Off road parking. Internal Viewing Rec.
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£145,000

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Double Fronted End of Terrace. 2 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions. Fitted Kitchen, F/F Bathroom. Gas Fired Heating, Double Glazed. Off Road Parking. Viewing Recommended.
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Drake Close, St Athan
Modern Semi Detached. Bedrooms (2 Double). Reception Rooms. Cloakroom/WC. Garage & Driveway. No Onward Chain.
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£135,000

Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major
Semi Detached house. 3 Bedrooms. Close to Local Primary Sch. UPVC DG. Gas CH. Outbuilding. Westerly Rear Garden.
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£117,500

Starling Road, St Athan
3 Bedrooms. Middle Link Home. Open Green Aspect. Lounge, Kitchen/Diner. Gas Fired Heating, Dble Glazed. Off Road Parking.
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Scott Close, St Athan
Mid Terrace House. 3 Bedrooms, 1 Reception. Family Kitchen/Diner. 1st Floor Bathroom. Gas Fired Heating & Double Glazed. Parking Space, Viewing Rec.
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LETTINGS

BARRY

YMCA Woodlands Road
Ground floor 2 bed apartment
£450 pcm

RHOOSE

29 Station Road
2 bed ground floor flat
£395 pcm

Havant Close
Refurbished 2 bed first floor apartment
£450 pcm

Fontygary Road
Two bed first floor apartment with garden
£475 pcm

The Wheate Close
Unfurnished 2 bed link house
£500 pcm

102 Fonmon Park Road
Refurbished to high standard two bed house
£525 pcm

Picton Road
Two bed semi with garage
£550 pcm

Castle Road
3 bed family home with parking
£650 pcm

Porfa Ballas
Executive 6 bed house
£1250 pcm

Rhodfa'R Mor
Executive 5 bed house with sea views
£1450 pcm

LLANTWIT MAJOR

Llys Dwynwen
Two bed house
£500 pcm

Redwood Close Boverton
2 bed first floor flat
£500 pcm

ST ATHAN

Scott Close
3 bed link house
£475 pcm

Shackleton Close
3 bed link house
£550 pcm

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Closing date: 22 April 2010.

Subject to # Job Evaluation and * CRB Disclosure.

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Birthdays

TO A VERY SPECIAL PERSON
Christine Williamson

14 April 2010
60? Never!

All our love, sweetheart, on your special day.
From YOTL (Mike!), Hannah and James XXX
PS. Save some jelly for me!

Hannah Simmons
GOTCHA!
Happy 18th Birthday
Sunday 11th April
Lots of love, Mum.
x x x

Motors For Sale

03 Plate Ford Ka
New MOT, very good condition, low mileage.
£1,950 ono
07971 185146 13

2004 Vauxhall Meriva 5-Dr 1.6i Design
Silver, 44,000 miles, 12 months MOT, 6 months tax. Excellent condition.
£3,000
07855 061984 13

Range Rover 4.4 HSE Petrol March 06
New 12 months tax, new MoT, 34,000 miles, pale green metallic, grey leather, lady owner, very good condition.
£24,995
01656 890617 or 07969 066981 15

NEW LOW PRICE 51 Rover 25 1.4 3-dr Hatchback
Green. 4 previous owners, 113,000 miles, MoT 22/03/10, lovely car with high motorway miles. Scratch to passenger door. new tyres 2,000 miles ago.
£600
07940 934508 11

W Reg V5 Seat Toledo
Excellent condition, MOT & Tax July 2010. New tyres, cruise, climate, half leather, towbar, 89k miles.
£1,450 ono
07753 761602 13

N Reg VW Golf 2.8 VR6
5 Door, 98 Spec., Dragon Green metallic, high mileage but excellent condition, long MOT, viewing recommended. May take part exchange, or
£1,375 ovno
07884 431858 15

RARE OPPORTUNITY! 1992 K Reg Honda VFR400 Motorbike
Red/White OKI colours, 23,000 miles, excellent condition. Also paddock stand and paniers.
£2,000 ono
07830 530731 12

T Reg Ford Transit LWB Tipper
88,000 miles, new tyres all round, MOT, Tax Aug 10.
£1,500 ono
01446 795220
07973 920205 13

1998 R Reg Rover 618i 1.9 Saloon
New MOT, til March 2011, excellent condition.
£650 ono
07796 848851
01446 775464 14

Y Reg Ford Fiesta 1.2 Freestyle
3 Door, new MOT.
£1,950
07974 416291 12

52 Plate Mercedes Benz Sprinter 311 CDi Highroof MWB
Pale blue, 87,000 miles, MOT May 2010, Tax May 2010, runs very well.
£3,000 ono
01446 792336 14

Deadline for Motor Cars is 12 noon on Tuesday

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE for up to 4 weeks for 50p a word plus VAT. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to "The Glamorgan Gem" at The Gem, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

2 RECLINER CHAIRS Electric, very good condition, beige colour. £350 for two ono. Tel: 01656 658107 **(14)**

SANYO Digital stereo sound system. Small, black, excellent condition £60. Tel: 01446 410170. **(13)**

DIMPLEX CHESFORD Optim-Mist electric fire, almost new. Retails at £450 plus - will sell for £200. Change over to gas forces sale. Tel: 01446 730806. **(13)**

ROCKING CHAIR £60. Mobile massage bed £50. Both excellent condition. Tel: 01446 781395. **(12)**

BATH LIFT Aquatec, easy to use, electrically operated, fits normal bath, £99 ono. Tel: 01446 773135. **(12)**

IKEA COMPUTER CABINNET (CYRIL) Width 78cms, Height 164cms, Depth 39cms. VGC £50. Tel: 01446 790188. **(15)**

CARL LEWIS Folding Treadmill - £30. Maskreys teak bookcase - £12. Pine gate leg table - £12. Double bed - £20. Child's single bed - £15. Tel-01446 737235 (after 6pm). **(15)**

Family Notices

Barbara PRICE
Anne, Peter and their families would like to thank all Barbara's family and friends for their support and kindness over the past weeks and for attending the services of celebration of Barbara's life on 23rd March.

Brian WELCH
Died peacefully on March 31, 2010.
Brian, beloved husband of Anne, and a much-loved father and grandfather.
Funeral service in St Tathan Church on Monday April 12, 2010 at 2pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made by cheque to the Alzheimers Disease Society c/o WA Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major.

DAVIES
John Stephen (1921-2010)
John passed peacefully away in the early hours of Thursday March 18, 2010.
He is survived by his loving wife Barbara and his '4 boys', Stephen, Roderic, David, Nigel and their families.
Born in 1921, JS was one of life's givers.
He gave his all to his family and friends, and also in his exploits on the rugby field and in support of Penarth RFC in their 'glory' days, and latterly with Cowbridge.
As a representative for Spillers/Dalgety for over 30 years, he was devoted to his many farming customers. In his retirement he enjoyed farming at Arfryn and then a return to his 'roots' in Ceredigion.
Most recently, he suffered increasingly from dementia, which he bore like a Trojan.
He was supported tirelessly by Barbara, who was with him to the end. He was kind and selfless and will be greatly missed.
Funeral strictly private. Family only.
No flowers.

PATCHETT, Anne
Peacefully on March 28th at Llandough Hospital, Anne of St Mary Church, beloved wife of the late Clarence. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon.
Funeral Wednesday, April 14th, service 2pm at St Mary Parish Church, Nr Cowbridge, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home. Donations in lieu if desired, to Royal British Legion, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

Public Notices

LICENSING ACT 2003
CHERYL DAY has applied for the variation of a premises licence pursuant to Sections 34/37 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the following licensing activities at Cafe Des Amis, 4 Washington Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 2AD.
The application is to vary the premises licence to provide live music, recorded music, performance of dance, dancing, each day of the week from 1100 hrs to 0030 hrs; and the sale by retail of alcohol every day of the week from 1100hrs to 0030 hrs.
The application can be inspected at the Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Section, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.
Any interested party/responsible authority may make representations to the relevant Licensing Authority by May 1, 2010.
Any representation shall be made in writing.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction being £5,000.

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XXXXX

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Hensol villagers plant for a splash of springtime colour

ABOVE: Patches of daffodils are blooming throughout Hensol, after villagers planted more than 400 bulbs.

VILLAGERS in Hensol have added a real splash of colour to the village after planting more than 400 daffodil bulbs earlier this year.

The unseasonably cold weather meant that it took longer than usual for the daffs to appear, but the village is now bright with yellow flowers along the verges.

The idea came from two villagers, Lola Worgan and Emma Newman. Lola told The GEM: "This year, we decided to really make a splash in springtime, and lots of people joined in to help with the planting."

NEWS FROM POSITIVE IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Imax 3D makes its way to Barry...

SOME time ago, I went to an Imax Cinema in Sydney, Australia, and it was one of the most bizarre experiences of my life, *a correspondent writes*.

The film was a gothic horror flic that was so awful it was hilarious – but the '3 Dimensional' effect was absolutely amazing. I came out thinking 'what a waste' and wondering why mainstream cinema films aren't made in 3D?

I now know why – they would cost too much to make because, before digital imaging, you had to use two cameras and two projectors and twice as much film.

Bernard Brown's '3D Extravaganza' [PIPS March 25] was amazing.

Dubbed 'The Welsh Wizard' by the editor of the Journal of The Stereoscopic Society of Great Britain, he began by giving us a tour of the American National Parks.

Stunning landscape followed on stunning landscape, all in thoroughly convincing 3D. From my seat in the front row I had to resist the temptation to get up and walk off into the sunset in Monument Valley.

Even more fascinating was a sequence of pictures that followed the building of the second Severn Crossing. Bernard revisited choice viewpoints regularly from the laying of the first supports in the riverbed to the official opening walkover.

The added perspective of 3D really brought home what a gigantic project it was. Bernard's picture of the last section being put into place – in the middle – and lining up exactly – was amazing!

During the second part of the evening, Bernard demonstrated how it was done.

In the dark ages before digital photography, he used two cameras, mounted on a bar to replicate the distance between human eyes.

For really wide-open spaces he had to place the cameras several feet apart. Bernard then went on to show how the effect is now created digitally. This involves all sorts of jiggery-pokery with 'bump map' image filters and shifting pixies left and right.

We will not forget the digitally created fantasy images and the 3D pictures of far away galaxies that Bernard used for the grand climax of the evening in a hurry.

The next meeting is on April 8, with local lads, Tony Warrilow, on 'The essence of wildlife photography', and Dave Hales, who will surprise us because we don't know what he is going to do yet!

Positive Image Photographic Society meets at 7-30pm on alternative Thursday evenings at St Baruc's Church, Phyllis Street Barry Island. New members will be made very welcome.

Further details of the club and forthcoming events including forthcoming competition details are on the societies website at www.positiveimagebarry.org.uk.

Club hands over cheque for mini bus fund

ABOVE: Elisabeth Millard (treasurer), Mike Edwards (Chairman VOPF) and Rene Gannon.

THE Wednesday Afternoon club from Dinas Powys held a lunch at St Andrews Major golf club where they received a visit from the Chairperson of the Older People's Strategy Forum, Mike Edwards, who presented a cheque for £100 to the treasurer Elizabeth Millard.

The money was a contribution to Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern's mini bus, bought with donations from the people of Dinas Powys for the benefit of the elderly and disabled.

National Trust talk on castle

VALE of Glamorgan Association of National Trust members met recently in Cowbridge, to hear an interesting talk by Dr Kate Roberts, from CADW, on 'Kidwelly Castle'.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21at 7.30pm in the Duke of Wellington when the speaker, Mr Mike Clubb, will talk about 'The Bridgend Arsenal'.

Membership of the Association is open to any interested person who is a paid-up member of the National Trust or National Trust for Scotland, or spouse/partner of a life member; a National Trust staff member or volunteer.

The annual subscription (payable on January 1) is: £7.50 for one National Trust member; £10 for two members; reduced to £3.75 and £5, respectively, for those joining after June.

In the spring and summer, trips are organised to various National Trust properties. New members welcome.

For further information, contact the membership secretary on 01443 223230.

Diabetes group

DIABETES UK Cymru Vale of Glamorgan voluntary group is meeting on Tuesday, April 20 in the board room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, starting at 7.30pm.

The speaker is Ms Kathleen Shiels and new members are always welcome; for enquiries, please telephone 01446 746639.

Gala concert

LLANDAFF Musical Society is presenting a gala concert, featuring well-known music at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trinity Street, Barry.

It takes place on Friday, April 23 at 7.30pm. Proceeds are for church funds; tickets £5, or pay at the door.

Penarth and District Ramblers roundup

Water, water, everywhere... in Merthyr

NINE walkers joined leader Val Hartrey for the journey up to Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer, and they began their walk from Cyfarthfa Castle.

Built for £30,000 in 1825 by the Ironmaster William Crawshay 11, this mock castle, complete with towers and turrets made of local stone and surrounded by 160-acres of parkland, overlooked the family-owned ironworks on the other side of the River Taff.

Leaving the castle grounds, the group made their way across Cefn bridge, and via steps joined the banks of the Taf Fechan River, which were waterlogged following recent rain and very muddy.

The river footbridge led them to the western bank of the Taf Fechan Nature Reserve, established in 1975, where they slithered along muddy paths through the woods, which in places became rivers and had to be waded through!

Navigating a wide drainage channel that had turned into a pond and crossing a meadow full of pregnant ponies, the group made their way to the Blue Pool (Pwll Glas) and stopped for morning coffee while watching four young men attempting to canoe down the river.

Crossing the road and continuing along the river bank, the group made their way under the 455-foot long, 92-foot high and 7-arched Pontsarn Viaduct.

Five acres of land on the west bank, including the Blue Pool, was presented to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority by Whitbread Brewers in 1986 for the great sum of £1, and a plaque on the viaduct wall commemorates this.

They journeyed on through meandering paths in the woods towards Vaynor, where a spectacular waterfall was crashing down into the flooded valley from below Vaynor church.

Climbing up to visit the church, they saw two toads beside the path, but at the church were thwarted by the arrival of a wedding party, and not wishing to invade their privacy, the visit was postponed for another day.

The wooden bridge over the river had a huge gap on its floor, where planks had been removed and burnt – so great care had to be taken while crossing, before they climbed uphill to join the Taff Trail.

Another steep climb through woods up a path that was running with water followed, before they emerged onto the open hillside, where a buzzard soared overhead and their climb ended at Morlais Castle quarries where it was quite breezy.

Lunch was enjoyed in the shelter of huge limestone rocks, while skylarks trilled overhead.

Before they left, there was a clear view to the central Brecon Beacon mountain tops and away in the distance the Merthyr mountain railway train was chugging along and puffing out steam that rose in a high cloud.

The quarry floors had huge lakes in them following the thawing of snow and recent heavy rainfall.

However, further along several people were enjoying the sport of rock climbing.

From the quarry top a single red kite flew up into the sky and down across the woodland below, before the group moved on to descend gradually, and cross the road to join the opposite bank of the nature reserve.

Here it was evident just how much the river was swollen, and following the limestone gorge down river with its various pothole shapes created by the passing of time and water damage, the rapids were swirling masses of thundering clear water crashing downhill.

Retracing their steps at the bottom of the Cwm, the group walked back to Cyfarthfa Castle, now a school and museum, and visited the café for some liquid refreshment before the journey home.

On April 10, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile hard walk climbing Twmpa in the Black Mountains from Glasbury; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

On April 13, meet at 9am at Cogan for an eight-mile moderate walk at St Mellons; contact Viv/Val on 029 2053 1045 (this walk has been moved forward from 20 April).

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks.

Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Cowbridge pupil seals Cadet motor racing win

TOM HARVEY, the young Vale karting driver, didn't give himself much hope of winning after issues with his kart left him uncharacteristically well off the leading pace in his latest outing at Whilton Mill – but a dramatic turn-around earned the highly-rated young South Wales star a superb triumph against all the odds.

Having finishing an excellent second in the club championship at Whilton last year, and having stormed to his breakthrough national victory in the Lewis Hamilton and Bernie Ecclestone-backed Formula Kart Stars (FKS) series at the Northants track, Tom boasts an enviable record around the challenging circuit and travelled there with high hopes of another strong result.

Carburettor problems that took a while to successfully diagnose and resolve left the Bonvilston hotshot in distinctly unaccustomed territory during his first two heat races – at the wrong end of the 39-strong MSA Cadet class field.

"We first knew there was a problem when I was 1.2 seconds off the pace in the first heat," he explained.

"I'm never 1.2 seconds off round Whilton Mill! I know my way around there really well. It's a hard circuit to drive, but I like that.

"It's a drivers' track with a really bumpy surface, which makes it very physical as well."

An eye-catching opening lap and gutsy performance in heat one secured the 12-year-old a wholly unexpected seventh place from way down in 22nd on the starting grid,.

In heat two, a brilliant getaway from fifth briefly elevated Tom to second, before he found himself helplessly 'dropping like a stone' to an eventual and massively frustrating 12th at the chequered flag.

Happily, a new engine and carburettor, and tweaked set-up for heat three, suddenly brought the Fusion Motorsport ace right back into contention, with fastest lap proof that a corner had been turned.

He sealed a fifth row starting spot for the all-important final, in which the Cowbridge High School pupil went on to channel all of his efforts into hunting down the top six who had broken away from the chasing pack.

A fired-up charge saw him inexorably reduce the gap until he was a part of the leading scrap himself and then picked off his rivals one-by-one.

He won by six tenths of a second and said:

"In the closing stages there were six of us in the leading pack.

"It was a huge battle and there was a ridiculous amount of passing going on between us.

"It was classic fast, frantic and furious Cadet action, and on the last lap the lead must have changed four or five times!"

Happy 1st birthday to Bro Radio!

Alana Davies with breakfast presenter Matthew Wilson and Station Manager Steve Powell.

I WAS delighted to attend a party last Wednesday, to celebrate Bro Radio's first birthday in the Hub at the Barry YMCA, where it began transmitting just a year ago.

It is most refreshing to see so many people of all ages working together, mainly in a voluntary capacity, for the pleasure and information of the community – and clearly enjoying every minute of it.

I'm sure this enterprise will go from strength-to-strength, and I look forward to being invited to their second birthday party.

Alana Davies
(Labour parliamentary candidate, Vale of Glamorgan)

Students pass on tips to the Vale Council (and grill the cabinet)

ABOVE: The cabinet members are pictured with students from Cowbridge and Bryn Hafren comprehensives.

YOUNG people have been passing on tips to the Vale Council's cabinet at a series of question and answer sessions at the Cowbridge and Bryn Hafren comprehensive schools.

"The cabinet spent an hour with each school council, who were well prepared and didn't pull any punches!" a spokeswoman reported.

"Questions ranged from education issues to leisure facilities in their areas, as well as the popular subject of pot holes and road conditions.

"Cabinet members were also quizzed on student transport options and whether they thought recycling should be made compulsory."

School council members from both schools afterwards attended a cabinet meeting at the Civic Offices in Barry to see how the sessions are run.

Council leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, said: "The questions that were asked by both the school councils help us to understand the issues that are current and important to pupils of all ages.

"Cabinet and members found the experience very useful and enjoyable, and as a result we are planning to visit other schools throughout this year to meet with their school councils."

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Honours are even in 'atrocious' conditions

BARRY TOWN	2
TON PENTRE	2

THESE two old rivals met at Jenner Park and were welcomed by high winds and heavy downpours – however, the weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of both teams.

Due to injury and unavailability, Gavin Chesterfield was forced into two changes from Saturday's starting line-up with Lewis Cosslett and James Simpson starting in place of Damon Searle and Scott Jones.

Ton started much the livelier and they were soon putting the Dragons' defence under pressure, but just as we all thought they had weathered this initial storm, a hard low cross into the penalty area deflected off defender Dan Clare and into the net before keeper Dan Bradley could react.

With only eight minutes gone, there was plenty of time for Barry Town to get back in the game. The team started to get to grips with their game, but some resolute defending by Ton kept The Dragons at bay.

They kept plugging away and were rewarded when a low cross into the Ton six-yard box was steered into the net impressively by Ian Jones with 30 minutes gone.

After a long time out with niggly injuries, Ian is starting to show the goalscoring abilities that he is renowned for.

It was a deserved equaliser and both teams continued to play some good football without further troubling the 'keepers.

The second half continued in the same vein with both teams playing attacking football despite the atrocious conditions.

The play was end-to-end, but the stout defending from both defences limited goalscoring opportunities.

Ton eventually took the lead, again from a mistake in The Dragons' defence. Alyn Jones, who was unmarked on the edge of the box, beat Dan Bradley.

Although there was still 20 minutes to go, this looked like the winner, as so few chances were being created.

One thing that can be said about this team, though, is that they do not give up easily.

Gavin Chesterfield brought on Sam Small, Jaymes Dixon and Michael Parkins to try to rescue at least a point from the game.

With time now running out and only seconds left of time added on, a great cross from the right landed at the feet of Sam Small who, 15 yards out, curled the ball past the helpless Ton 'keeper to give the Dragons the point they deserved.

Ton only had time to kick off before the referee brought proceedings to an end.

A most enjoyable game in atrocious condition and supported by three officials who did their best to keep the game flowing.

DAVID COLE

The View win out in a 'thrilling' game of rugby

TONGWYNLAIS RFC	17
THE SEA VIEW (BARRY)	22

ABOVE: Sea View on the attack.

ON Saturday, The View travelled for a bottom of the table clash with friends Tongwynlais – winning this match would ensure the victors didn't finish bottom.

With such a lot riding on the outcome you would have expected a tactical percentage game, in fact both sets of supporters were treated to a thrilling game of running rugby.

Early pressure from The View soon told, a Tongwynlais infringement giving Damion Huggins a chance for early points, a superb kick was judged wide by one judge, over by the other! In fairness, the small posts made a clear decision difficult.

It wasn't long before The View opened the scoring. A lineout in the Tongwylais 22 was won and fly-half Glynn Smith burst through desperate Tong tackles to score close to the post.

Huggins left the touch judges in no doubt with a cracking conversion.

Sea View continued applying the pressure, Leon Ford going close. Tongwynlais defended well, their full-back clearing his lines time and again only to see the View wingers Ben Cotter and Aaron Bond run the ball straight back at him.

A lineout deep in Tongwynlais territory led to a try from flanker Chris Hann, collecting his own throw from Azzopardi, The View pack drove over the line for Hann to score.

The posts again beat Huggins but The View were in a commanding 12-0 lead. The pack was dominant in the set piece and the loose, the engine room of Leon Ford and Gareth Lowes providing a solid platform for the front row of Burston, Veness and Huelin.

Wayne Burston had a fine game in the loose, carrying the ball well and deftly passing out of contact.

With half-time looming, Tongwynlais scored two tries.

Half-time score 12-12.

View were down a man after Cotter's yellow card and the second half began with them under pressure from an invigorated Tongwynlais. The never-say-die character of the View however shone through. With Cotter back on the field, it was Glyn Smith who settled The View nerves, scoring two more tries to restore the lead 12-22.

Tongwynlais came back to score a try, to close the gap to 17-22. The final five minutes saw The View defend comfortably to earn themselves a well-deserved victory!

The View's final league game of the season is a home fixture on April 10 against Sully Sports.

MV

ISLAND MARINE UNDER-13S SCOOP A SPONSORSHIP DEAL

LEFT: Island Marine under-13s are pictured in the kit sponsored by R & M Williams.

ISLAND MARINE under-13 football club would like to thank R and M Williams for sponsoring their kit during this season.

Paul Richards, procurement manager for R and M Williams, said: "This is the second year that the company has sponsored a junior side. We are very pleased to be able to promote youth developments within the community and wish the club all the success for the future."

The club currently play in the Vale of Glamorgan under-13 league.

State of Play makes Grand National bid

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

***State Of Play*, trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, bids to become the first horse trained in Wales to win the world's greatest steeplechase – the Aintree Grand National – on Saturday since *Kirkland*, trained at Lawrenny Park near Tenby was successful in 1905.**

State Of Play, a 20-1 chance, finished fourth of the 17 finishers in last year's race, won by 100-1 outsider *Mom Mome* and might well have finished a lot nearer to the winner but for making mistakes half-way through the race.

It was back in 1937 that another Welshman called Evan Williams, the 24-year-old son of Fred Williams of the Bear Hotel and the starter at Ely Racecourse, and also from Cowbridge, rode *Royal Mail* to success.

When asked by the press what he thought about his success, he replied: "What can I say? I have won the Grand National, and I am naturally delighted.

"Give the credit to the horse. He jumped perfectly and cleverly. He made one or two mistakes, but they were not entirely his fault."

One thing certain, if *State Of Play* is successful his trainer won't be short of words.

The rearranged Glamorgan Hunt Point-to-Point Steeplechases also take place this Saturday at Ystradowen and there are more than 100 entries for the six races.

Robert Thomas's *Mick's Prospect* can get backers off to a good start in the members' race at 1pm.

David Brace's *O'Rage* will be fancied to take the young horse maiden and Ian Brice's *Cool Cliche* has *Little Miss Monty* to beat in the aged maiden.

David Oakes's *Opal Ridge* has *Humbel Origins* to contend with in the club members' race and *King's Euro*, *Chandlers Cross* and *Silver Story* are down to run in the mixed open race.

There are 26 entries for the restricted and *Rimini* and *Farnogue* have Carmen Goldsworthy's *On Oath* to beat.

St Richard Gwyn pupils try archery

ARCHERY sessions have been introduced after school at St Richard Gwyn Catholic School in Barry to help both and boys and girls hit the national target of taking part in five hours of exercise a week.

Archery sessions are helping attract girls in the Vale to take part in extra-curricular sporting activities as part of the 5x60 scheme.

The sessions have been arranged thanks to the innovative 5x60 scheme, which provides extra-curricular activities to encourage secondary school pupils across Wales to get active for at least 60 minutes, five days a week (5x60).

The school's 5x60 officer, Ben Williams, added: "Archery is tempting a number of new faces to take part in 5x60 sessions, and they are all enjoying having a go at something new.

"It's great to see a lot of girls getting involved and I hope that word will continue to get around that 5x60 sessions are the place to be at lunchtime and after school."

You can find out more about the 5x60 scheme in the Vale online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/5x60

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185/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£65.40	£120	£230	185/65R14 Avon ZV3	£50.11	£95	£185	185/65R14 Tenyal	£35.72	£67	£130
185/65R15 Bridgestone EH300	£73.60	£132	£255	185/65R15 Avon ZV3	£53.86	£102	£199	185/65R15 Tenyal	£37.21	£70	£135
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05 **55 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, automatic air con, sat nav, roof rails, 20" alloy wheels, front and rear parking sensors, only 65,660 miles **£19,995**

05 **05 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, 19" alloy wheels, air con, CD, front /rear parking sensors, privacy glass, only 52,290 miles **£17,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible** in Tellur silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh **£16,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDi Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon.** In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles **£15,995**

04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles **£19,995**

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07 **57 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SIL** in steel grey with full red leather interior, climate control, sunroof, cruise control, alloy wheels, only 23,600 miles **£10,495**

07 **07 SEAT Leon 2.0TDi DPF FR 5-Dr Hatchback.** In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 36,598 miles **£13,495**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£10,495**

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06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

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06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

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05 **55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique** in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, clour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles **£5,795**

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06 **06 FORD Fiesta Zetec 5-dr.** In panther black with dark interior, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, only 18,131 miles **£5,995**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles **£5,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 One (salt) 3-dr Hatchback.** In pure silver with anthracite interior, 6 CD changer, automatic dipping rear-view mirror, panoramic roof, body coloured bumpers, only 39,600 miles **£7,995**

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02 **52 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback** in met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 48,060 miles **£3,495**

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05 **05 VW Bora 1.9 TDi Highline 4-Dr Saloon.** In black with beige leather interior, air con, heated seats, rear parking sensors, cruise control, only 57,655 miles **£7,495**

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02 **52 NISSAN Almera 1.8 SVE 5-dr Hatchback.** In caterpillar green with grey tungsten cloth, cd, a/c, reversing sensors, colour coded bumpers, only 44,300 miles **£3,995**

06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

02 **02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles **£5,495**

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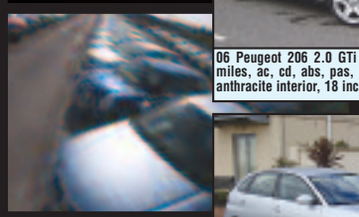

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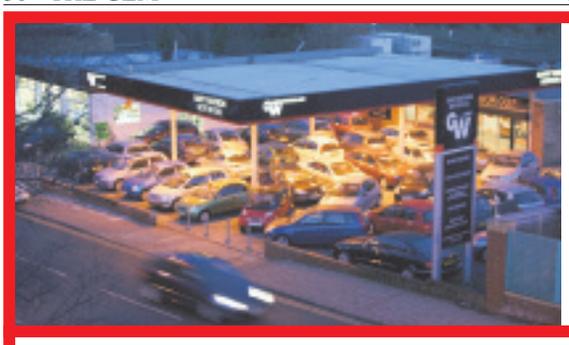

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02	**JAGUAR S Type 2.5 SE Auto.** Silver with black leather, low mileage, local car	£5,995
R	**MERCEDES SLK 230 Auto.** In green black with two tone leather trim, great value Mercedes Convertible at	£4,995
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06	**MGZR 14 (105) 3-dr.** In thorny blue, 46,000 miles, low insurance with alloys, cd, etc	£3,995
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56	**FORD Focus 1.4LX 5-dr.** In electric blue, 30,000 miles with a/c, cd, etc	£6,495
56	**PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-Dr.** In black, low mileage example with alloys, a/c, etc, ideal family hatch.	£6,295
57	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr.** In diablo red, 24,000 miles, under manufacturer warranty	REDUCED BY £300 TO £5,995
04	**TOYOTA Corrolla 2.0 D4D T3 5-dr.** In silver, 54,000 mile diesel with sat-nav	£5,995
04	**VOLVO S60 2.4 D5 SE.** In met silver birch, 63,000 miles, high specification diesel at	£5,995
04	**VW Passat 1.9TDi Highliner 130 Automatic.** In silver with black leather, 84,000 miles, high spec	£5,695
07	**CITROEN C4 1.4 LX 5-dr.** In gun metal met, 35,000 miles, stylish hatch at	£5,495
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55	**NISSAN Primara 2.0 SX 5-dr.** In silver, 35,000 miles with sat-nav, alloys, etc	£5,495
52	**VW Golf 1.9 GTDi 130 bhp 5-dr.** In silver, sought after diesel at	£5,495
08	**FIAT Panda 1.1 Active.** In met-blue, 15,000 miles with cd etc, under FIAT warranty	£4,995
55	**MITSUBISHI Colt 1.5Di - D Equipe 3-dr.** In met-grey 41,000 miles, diesel hatch with low running costs	£4,995
54	**RENAULT Megane VVTi Privilage Automatic 5-dr.** Met jade, half leather trim, low mileage	REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995
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06	**CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 Sport 3-dr.** In black, with black leather trim, 37,000 miles	£4,695
04	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Flame.** In electric blue, low mileage example with alloys, cd, etc.	£4,495
04	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Silver 3-Dr.** 62,000 miles with full leather trim, A/C, CD etc.	£4,495
04	**FORD Focus 1.6 Edge 5-dr.** In light met-blue, low mileage example with alloys, a/c, etc	£4,495
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04	**VAUXHALL Meriva 1.6 Life.** In silver with a/c, e/w, c/l	£3,995
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03	**SAAB 95 2.2TDi.** In silver with black leather, 93,000 miles, solid diesel saloon at	£3,995
52	**PEUGEOT 307 SW 1.6 Automatic.** In gold, 85,000 miles, with full panoramic glass roof	£3,495
03	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.6SXi 5-dr.** In black, 61,000 miles, ideal family hatch at	£3,295
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04	**FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 3-dr.** In met-red, low running cost hatch at	£2,995
02	**PEUGEOT 307 1.6 Rapier 3-dr.** In black, 72,000 miles with a/c, alloys	£2,995
51	**RENAULT Clio 2.0 Sport 172.** In met-red, very nice example at	£2,995
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07 07 MAZDA RX8 4-dr (231), met black, 29k

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03 53 VW Passat 2.0 S 4-dr, met blue, 74k

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*Photos are indicative only

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02 52 PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Met blue, 68k miles **£3,475**
05 05 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd **£3,965**
03 53 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 16v 5-Dr. Met blue, 65k miles **£3,975**
05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. Silver, met, 58k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£4,475**
06 56 HYUNDAI 1.4 Getz GSi 3-dr. Black, met, 15k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd **£4,975**
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08 08 FORD KA 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr. In white, 9,000 miles **£6,475**
07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles **£6,975**
07 07 RENAULT clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr hatch. Silver met, 24k miles, a/c, rcl, ew, pas, alloys **£6,975**

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05 05 RENAULT Megane 1.4 Rush 3-dr Silver met, 53k miles, alloys, rcl, a/c, cd **£4,475**
05 05 HYUNDAI Sonata 2.4 Auto Saloon, 4-dr, Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, ew, cd, cruise, full leather **£4,975**
05 05 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr. Met blue, 76k miles, fully loaded **£4,975**
04 54 TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 T3 Auto Met blue,48k . . **£6,475**
06 56 CITROEN Picasso 1.6 HDi TURBO DIESEL. Met red, 36k miles, pas, a/c **£6,975**
07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr. Met blue, e windows, rcl, 5k miles **£6,975**
07 07 PEUGEOT 307 Hdi 90SE TURBO DIESEL. Green/grey met, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, ew, cd, a/c **£7,975**
09 58 CITROEN C2 1.4VTR Met black, 9k miles . . **£7,975**

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05 54 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTi SRI AUTO 5dr. Met blue, alloys, a/c, fsh **£5,975**
04 04 TOYOTA Celica VVTi. Met silver, 39k, S/H, sports pack, leather, sunroof, a/c **£7,475**
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05 05 PEUGEOT 307 Convertible. Met silver, auto, 50k miles **£7,975**
04 04 MERCEDES SLK 200 Cabriolet AUTO Silver met, 59k miles, AMG Wheels, rcl, a/c, ew, must be seen . . **£11,975**
04 04 MERCEDES SL 500 Cabriolet AUTO. Silver met, 82k miles, leather, alloys, climate, cd, ew, rcl **£19,975**
06 56 BMW 335D AUTO 2dr Coupe Turbo Diesel. Grey met, 28k miles, full leather, cd, ew, a/c, stunning car . . **£19,975**

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01 Y RENAULT Scenic 1.4 Authentique, mpv, silver met, 60k miles, rcl, ew. cd, a/c **£2,675**
04 04 HYUNDAI Matrix 1.8 CDX MPV. Silver met, full leather, rcl, ew, cd **£3,975**
04 04 FORD Galaxy 2.3 AUTO Ghia MPV. Met silver, 90k miles, rcl, a/c, alloys, cd, cruise **£5,975**
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06 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Sport 5dr. Grey met, **only 2,500 miles**
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GEM sport

'B' team fight another day

Cowbridge team's squash success in 'must win' match

WITH the championship-winning Cowbridge A Bar 44 squash team having successfully completed their programme in the previous week, it was left to the B and C teams to clear up some unfinished business with rescheduled fixtures against St Mellons D and David Lloyds C respectively.

The Bs knew theirs was a 'must win' situation to avoid finishing in the bottom two, and hence most likely to suffer relegation, but they were hopeful of achieving this following a 3-2 win at St Mellons the previous week.

Colin Baxter (No 4) and Chris Ranger (No 3) started proceedings with contrasting initial opening games.

Baxter continued with his new-found attacking style to win the first game 9-3. Ranger, on the other hand, was perhaps a little 'ring-rusty' having missed the previous week's encounter and lost the first 6-9.

Baxter exerted more pressure to take the next two games 9-0, 9-2, while Ranger dug deep to win a tie-break second game before finishing 9-2, 9-3 to set up the team for the required win.

Paul Reynish at No 2 also struggled to settle into his game, losing the first set 6-9 until finding his form to dictate the pace 9-1, 9-1, 9-5.

So, the match was won and the Bs secured South Glamorgan Division One Squash once again.

With the pressure off, No 5 (Russ Watts) and No 1 (Simon Payne) could relax, but as it turned out the score card reveals two 3-0 results to give the team their first maximum points haul of the campaign.

Payne's result was particularly rewarding as his opponent was known to achieve results at a much higher level in the south Wales sections. The match result of 20–2 saw the team jump to third in the table!.

Cowbridge C also finished with a win (their first of the spring programme) against David Lloyd C, but the situation did not look great at the start of the match, with both Nos 4 and 5 losing 0–3.

It was left to the father and son combination, Phil and Dave Matthews, at Nos 3 and 2 plus No 1 and skipper Colin Giles to retrieve the points score.

All three came through to restore some pride at the end of a disappointing set of fixture results.

These three players all turned in superb 3-0 results to win the match (Phil Matthews 9-4, 9-4, 9-7, Dave Matthews 9-3, 10-8, 9-2, and Colin Giles, scoring his first win since Christmas in emphatic style 9-5, 9-1, 9-1).

April sees the end-of-season club tournaments take place – both singles and doubles – well worth a watch! (*information from clive.prigg@btinternet.com or russ.watts@btopenworld.com*)

A thriving juniors section meets on Saturday mornings. Also all levels of membership is available – details also from above. Most players continue to play through the summer to keep 'ticking over' while other 'low-mileage' players take a rest until the next league campaign starts up in late September.

RUSS WATTS

Big day ahead for Cowbridge Town

IN a real 'back from the dead' story, the young players who have resurrected Cowbridge Town FC are gearing up for the club's first senior final for well over a decade, just eight months after their re-establishment.

The side, who are made up, in the main, of recent former Cowbridge Comprehensive pupils who are now working or studying in the area, have shocked rivals by coming back from a disastrous start to the season when they lost six straight games.

However, the team has turned their youth to their advantage, and have been giving more mature sides the run-around!

A team spokesman said: "The final will represent a significant step in the development of a side who have now gone an amazing 10 games without dropping a single point, and have produced a brand of football which even the best in their league have struggled to match."

Only Waterfront Wanderers stand in the way of Town bringing the trophy home to Cowbridge, in what could prove to be a landmark victory in the return of senior football to Cowbridge.

The final will take place at Barry's Jenner Park ground, at 2.15pm next Sunday, April 11.

The spokesman added: "Entrance is just 50p and all the boys would appreciate any support. It really makes a difference to see your local town is there supporting you, and everyone involved is determined to put in a performance and do the town proud!"

Rufus wins second Welsh boxing vest

Rufus with one of his coaches, Paul Chappel from Porthcawl and Pyle Pumas.

YEAR-11 pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Rufus Budd, has won his second consecutive Welsh boxing vest at the Welsh Junior Championships in Bridgend.

Rufus had an emphatic win over his opponent from Taibach to retain the 57-60kg category.

Bowlers' early season game

THE combined forces of the ladies and men's sections of Cowbridge Bowling Club provided formidable opposition in a mixed friendly five-rink match against Phoenix Cardiff, played at Sophia Gardens at the end of March.

The fast indoor green favours those familiar with its speed and although Cowbridge lost by 69-81, its newest and less experienced bowlers will have learnt much from the event.

Although Cowbridge lost on four of the five rinks, two of them were by the narrowest of margins.

Rink scores were: Joy Woolford's team 15-16; Anne Jarvis's team 11-13; Ron Frayling's team 9-18; Shirley Wilkinson's team 13-21.

The team skipped by Norman Wilkinson won on their rink by 21-13. Norman had good support from Lynda Wilson as lead, Clive Pritchard (making his debut) as No 2 and Pauline McAllen at No 3.

The next mixed friendly will be away in Saundersfoot on May 9. Hopefully, we will by then have some summer weather.

MB

SPECIAL NEEDS FOOTBALL FESTIVAL A HIT!

SOCCER-LOVING boys from Headlands School in Penarth were the winners of the Vale's first football festival for pupils with special education needs.

The boys topped the table after going up against teams from Ashgrove School and Ysgol Maes Dyfan in a tournament organised by the Vale Council's sports and play development team.

The Council's Disability Sport Wales development officer, Simon Jones, said: "I'm really keen to increase the number of children playing football and to create links between local special education units so that further matches can be played."

The Vale has an established disability football team, The Vale Reds, who enter tournaments each month, while there is a regional disability football academy for players who show the potential to excel.

Teams such as The Vale Reds are helping disability football to prosper across Wales, and the numbers of players throughout the country is rising.

Headlands School (red) in action against Ashgrove's 'A' team (blue).

Simon Jones added: "Disability football is progressing enormously and events such as this festival are an excellent way for Vale schools to get involved.

"Hopefully links can be made between the Vale Reds disability football team and all the schools in the Vale, so that there are clear pathways for disabled children to play football, improve their skill, and enjoy making lots of new friends."

To find out more, telephone Simon Jones on 01446 704728.

Website updated

WITH the start of the cricket season fast approaching, Cowbridge Cricket Club has updated its website – here you can find details of both senior and junior fixtures for the season, along with reports from last year's teams, matches, and events.

The club welcomes new members, both playing and non-playing.

For more information, visit the website: www.cowbridgecricket.co.uk

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